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THE NEWSPAPER FOR ASHFORD, TENTERDEN AND SURROUNDING VILLAGES



Issue No 46

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against flooding**

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HOW WILL WE HOUSE THE NEW HOMELESS?

WHAT'S ON & WATCH

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NATURAL HORSE POWER

A SIGHT reminiscent of the early part of last century can be seen at the Wye National Nature Reserve. Two Ardennes forestry horses, Jeton and Yser, from Natural Traction Forestry Management are helping to clear timber from the woodland.

The work is being carried out by the Wye Community Farm. They can be seen near the car park opposite the Devil's Kneading Trough.

EXCLUSIVE**BY ED HILL**

THE town is facing a homeless "nightmare" according to a leading shelter charity.

It says a combination of a potential drop in the number of affordable homes being built and the current rocketing rate of the cost of living, will force more and more people out of their homes.

Gill Bryant, strategic area manager for the charity Porchlight – previously known as East Kent Cyrenians – said: "The current situation is a potential nightmare for Ashford."

"Firstly, the demand for affordable housing is threatened due to the number of developers pulling out of the market because of liquidity issues.

"Secondly, any hint of a recession may impact on Ashford's ability to attract further growth and new employers."

The charity, which runs a men's hostel in south Ashford, has recently broadened its scope to offer its services across the whole of the county.

Ms Bryant said: "Across the board, the numbers of referrals we are receiving have gone up. At one of our projects, referrals are in excess of 40, when normally it would be just 30."

"The demand has increased in Ashford too."

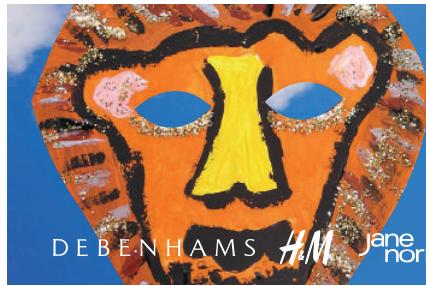
Ashford council has reviewed its homeless strategy and mortgage arrears was the main reason last year for people coming to the council for help.

It also reported the town's Citizen Advice Bureau had seen an increase in the number people coming to its branch for advice on housing issues.

Another particular problem group identified for Ashford were people suffering from mental health problems.

The report underlines future areas that will increase the homeless problem. They include

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Children's Wednesday Workshops

Bring the children to County Square Ashford any Wednesday in August and join them in some highly creative school holiday entertainment! Workshops include Pirates and Mermaids, Magic School, Jungle and Carnival. They're great fun and they're FREE so join us Wednesday 6 to 27 August, 11am to 1pm and 2pm to 4pm!



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TOP TV CLIPS



1 Jools Holland in concert last week at Rochester Castle.
See the community channel, search 'Jools'



2 What makes grown men want to dress up as WWII US marines? See the community channel, search 'war'



3 Julie Maddocks' visit to the Faversham Food Festival at the weekend. See the community channel, search 'food'

SEE OUR SISTER PAPERS KENT ON SUNDAY AND THE SATURDAY EDITION FOR ALL THE WEEKEND'S COUNTY NEWS AND SPORT

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PULLED OVER: Parked foreign trucks are causing chaos at the Orbital Business Park

Business park's rage at foreign lorry problem

EXCLUSIVE

■ BY ED HILL

TRADERS on an industrial estate say they have had enough of foreign truckers using the area as a giant lorry park and public toilet.

Foreign truckers urinate in the street and frequently dump their rubbish in the streets of the Orbital Business Park – which runs alongside Bad Münstererifel Way across to the Cattle Market.

This week business owners on the park have demanded urgent action by their MP and the county and borough councils to end the blight of the giant lorries which they say drive potential customers away and pose a serious road safety threat.

As well as most of the town's car showrooms and McDonalds, the park includes well-known businesses such as Carpet Right, Top Tiles, and the Bathstore.com.

Sandra Cosgrove, co-owner of Orbital Beds, says it is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident caused by the lorries.

She said: "We had 19 lorries parked here this weekend. When they are double parked it is almost impossible for our customers to get in and out of the car park. They park on the corners and jut out into the road causing dangerous blind spots."

Businesses also report lorry drivers leaving litter thrown out of their windows, playing football and some even have barbecues at the side of the road.

Sarah Cox, from the Carpet Right Store, said: "It affects us business terribly. People are put off coming here. Our signs are covered up by the lorries. We have put out our own signs, but the council tell us we must take them away or we face a fine."

Sandra Richie, deputy manager of the French Connection Brewer's Fayre restaurant and pub, said: "We run customer feedback, this comes up on every shift at the weekend. People complain about being stuck in the car park or not being able to get in."

"If you go up to the drivers they just abuse you and say it is against the law for them to move because they have driven their quota of hours. The problem seems to be much worse than last year."

The nuisance caused by the lorries comes on the back of a government select committee report looking into the problems caused by freight traffic on the roads. It concluded more freight needs to be shipped to other ports in the country rather than the whole burden being placed on the South East.

The Kent County Council has chosen its controversial site near Aldington to build a future lorry park, but an immediate solution to Orbital Park's problems does not seem on the horizon.

'It's hard to say how long situation will last'

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

expensive house prices, the impact of the redevelopment of the Stanhope estate and a possible increase in students when the Learning Campus gets built.

This week Housing Minister Caroline Flint announced a government package to create more affordable homes in the South East including 1,000 more homes in Dover.

She said: "We are determined to continue to do everything to promote long-term stability and fairness in the housing market."

Neil Cox from the Stomah Housing Association, which runs homes in Ashford for vulnerable young people, said: "It's hard to say how long the situation will last. There will still be a lot of people for whom purchasing a property will be difficult despite the drop in property prices."

However, there is good news for those in the town seeking homelessness advice from the council. It has been given £350,000 from central government for trailblazer status to offer advice on housing and employment at the Gateway centre in Park Mall.

Drugs firm is cleared in price-fixing claims

A KENT pharmaceutical company at the centre of a major legal battle has been cleared of any wrongdoing.

A judge threw out charges brought by the Serious Fraud Office of price-fixing against five drug companies including Ashford-based Kent Pharmaceuticals.

The SFO, which is an independent government department, began its investigation in 2000, and in April 2002 more than 30 premises were raided.

In April 2006 five companies, including Kent, were charged with conspiracy to fix prices of certain generic drugs and allegedly defrauded the Department of Health.

After the ruling, Kent Pharmaceuticals said it had 'no comment' to make.

Company announces rise in rail passengers

EUROSTAR chiefs are buoyant after the company announced its passenger numbers have risen by 18 per cent.

However, there were no clues as to what this means for the town's International Station which has been awarded Secure Station Status.

In its half-year performance figure announcement, Eurostar said the station was performing "in line with expectations".

The company has attributed its rise in passenger numbers to the new station at St Pancras which has attracted more customers from around the UK

Summer Fun at Park Mall

See page 16–17 for more details



Park Mall Shopping Centre Ashford T: 01233 630811 www.parkmallshopping.co.uk

SHOPPING
MALL

Will Zoo9 find a captive audience?

Organisers of music festival vow to learn from mistakes

TOP acts pulling out, queuing problems and collapsing stage tents were just a few of the problems that plagued the music festival Zoo8 – but festival organisers say this will not stop them staging Zoo9.

Ricardo Monty from Wildlife Music Events said: "We have learnt many many lessons but I suppose if we had to single out a few I'd say to plan in much more detail, plan for the unexpected and increase the size of contingency budgets. We have most certainly learnt where our strengths and weaknesses are."

Disappointed music fans immediately went on to websites to make complaints and some top performers failed to show because of payment issues.

Complaints

Top act Ash only went on after they were paid by the management of Port Lympne Animal Park who were letting the show happen in their grounds.

Organisers say that next year the event will be a better experience for music fans and for the acts booked to play.

Mr Monty said: "We are in negotiations with a number of industry experts to help plan for Zoo9. We will be offering a discount package for all VIP customers who attended Zoo8 to go to Zoo9."

They also denied that they had been too ambitious staging such a large event the first time round.

Mr Monty said: "That's a point of view some might have but we have learnt to be

■ BY ED HILL

more prepared now. We don't plan to scale back the size of the festival at this stage.

"We had many people say they had a great time and give us some constructive criticism too, which is great, all the management have read all the letters and emails we have received and we will certainly be taking on board what people say."

They also say that the media reaction concentrated too much on the negative aspects of the show and that the festival scene is a tough market to succeed in.

"We accept we do deserve some criticism. Labelling the whole event a shambles is simply not reasonable in our opinion.

"There's been plenty of festivals around the country that have done much worse than us in their first year and there were three that had the plug pulled that were due to take place on the same weekend.

"Kent, not being the most populated part of the country, is a difficult place to hold such a large-scale event and get 12,000 people at peak attendance and sell 17,000 tickets first-time around.

"Speculation that we lost £1 million is in the sky. We did make a minor loss but it was just that, compared with huge turnover an event like this generates."

They also say there are many Facebook and YouTube internet forums from fans saying what a good time they had at the festival.

• Email Yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk



STAR TURN: Organisers vow to learn from mistakes made at Zoo 8 and hope top acts such as Mark Ronson will return next year

Landmark to get its makeover

ONE of Ashford's most distinctive buildings will be transformed from offices to flats after council chiefs give plans the green light last week.

Outline planning permission has been granted to a developer for the ugly Charter House office building on the corner of Somerset Road and Station Road.

The three corridor concrete building dominates the town and can be seen from miles away.

Developer Dukelease Properties wants to convert the block into more than 200 one and two bedroom flats as well as building two smaller residential flat blocks.

The Alliance and Leicester building society is the only major business tenant in the 1970s block which was the HQ of ferry firm Sealink which became Stena Line.

The outline planning designs show the building will be re-clad with coloured tiles and added extra luxury flats at the top of the building.

Developers will now have to submit their detailed designs to the planning committee for further consultation.

Sunshine and TV star O'Grady help school to best-ever fete result

ALDINGTON Primary School has confirmed record takings of £3,000 from its fete this year.

Money raised will be used for various items at school including a new ceiling projector in the school hall, permanent sun screens and new play houses in the playground.

Parents Teachers & Friends Association (PTFA) joint chairman Sally Newall said: "It was a terrific result for us, helped again by Paul O'Grady giving us some star billing by opening the event. Beautiful weather – after last year's rain – also boosted takings.

"We want to do even better next year and we have a great team of parents, teachers and friends keen to do just that, to keep pace with the needs of a successful and forward-looking village school."

The PTFA is also hoping for a lift from a Harvest Supper and Auction of Promises on October 4.

Lots already pledged include: a visit to the Kent Police Tactical Firearms Unit, back and neck massage, Port Lympne Zoo VIP



STAR GUEST: Paul O'Grady with a youngster at the Aldington Primary School fete

tour, Planet Laser tickets and a huge jar of sweets from Aldington village shop.

There will also be a chance for bidders to join us here at Kosmedia. The successful bidder or their nominee will join us on the newsdesk as a reporter for the day.

• For more information on the Harvest Supper or to donate a promise, please contact Sally Newall on 01233 720259.

Hitachi searching for apprentices to work on high-speed trains

ENGINEERING skills around the town will benefit from a new training scheme set up by Hitachi Trains.

The new three-year apprenticeship programme will provide opportunities for school and college leavers.

High-speed trains will start regular services between Ashford and London's St Pancras station next year.

The trainees will start work in September at the state-of-the-art train maintenance centre near the International station.

Experts say this shows that the town is an increasingly attractive place for employers to invest.

Locate in Kent, the county's investment promotion agency helped companies to create 1,047 jobs in Ashford between April 2007 and April 2008.

Chief executive Paul Wookey said: "Half our successes in Ashford have been in the ICT sector, with other jobs being created in construction and property, financial services, engineering and printing."

Furthermore, 75 per cent were knowledge-based jobs, indicating the town is attracting a high-quality workforce."

Benches a sign of the times for good health

THE Benenden Hospital has been presented with three brass plaques for benches in its gardens.

Signs commemorate the benches that date back to the time when patients used to walk the grounds to recover from tuberculosis.

The presentation was part of the hospital's summer fair on July 12. Visitors took part in fun and games in the hospital grounds and were given tours of the hospital's latest technology.

Heleen Freeman, Benenden's hospitality manager, said: "It was a happy day and a great success. We hope that by holding our annual open day and summer fair, people see our doors are wide open to everyone.

"We want to encourage as many people as possible to use our facilities should they have a healthcare need, and we are proud to show off our facilities to members of the public."

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Drink-related violence below national average

A REPORT into the effects of alcohol around the county has revealed Ashford is slightly below the South East average for violent crimes attributed to drinking.

The report, launched by Kent County Council, revealed just over five people per 1,000 in the borough were involved in a violent crime caused by alcohol during 2005/6.

The worst area in the county was Thanet, at just over eight people per 1,000.

Church leaders to bless new-look funeral home

DOVES Funerals in Kingsnorth Road will be holding a special blessing service at its newly refurbished funeral home tomorrow.

It will be blessed by three local church leaders: Rev John Mackenzie, Rev Sheila McLachlan and Father Gus Kinnane.

A plaque commemorating the opening of the home will then be unveiled by the Mayor John Link.

There will also be a dedication speech by Graham Lynn, president of the National Association of Funeral Directors.

The ceremony begins at noon.

Enjoy a walk through town's 'horrible' past

THERE are still a few places available for two Horrible History walks around the town.

The guided talks take place on July 30 and August 2. There will be visits and talks on the terribly smelly tannery, the execution of horrid heretics, violent sneaky smugglers and local rotten Romans.

The walks are aimed at children from 7 to 12 years-old. The meeting point is 10.30am outside the library in Church Road.

To book contact the Town Centre Partnership Office on 01233 664410. Tickets cost £2 for adults and £1.50 for children.

Wind farm deliveries set to cause traffic hold-ups

DRIVERS around the area can expect more road disruption as the delivery of wind farm parts continues to a site at Romney Marsh.

The deliveries begin on Monday and continue daily until Thursday, July 31.

There will be two movements of three loads leaving Chatham Dockyard around 5.30am and again at 11am.

The vehicles will exit the M20 at junction 10 and continue along the A2070, A259 before reaching their destination.

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- The Homelands Suite £275
- The Spitfire Suite £175



For more details call: 01233 611838

Stop benefit cheats fiddling the system

Campaign blazing a trail in fight against fraud

■ BY ED HILL

ACCORDING to the latest report from the Audit Commission, benefit fraud levels are at an all-time high across the nation.

The figures revealed that £24 million had been paid out in housing benefit fraud in the year 2006/7; an increase of 26 per cent.

It has also criticised some local authorities for not doing enough to combat the crime. However, Ashford council is bucking the trend.

Thanks to its high-profile campaign with Yourashford, more benefit cheats from the town are being uncovered by the fraud team.

Investigated

The Your - Money Your Loss! campaign, launched in January, has created a sharp increase in the number of cases investigated by the council's fraud officers.

Even Prime Minister Gordon Brown has thrown his weight behind the campaign, personally endorsing it.

He said: "I congratulate Yourashford and its campaign to weed out the benefit cheats."

In one example highlighted by the commission, a



YOUR MONEY - YOUR LOSS!

CRACKDOWN ON THE BENEFIT CHEATS

CATCH THEM: PM Gordon Brown has backed the campaign to 'weed out the benefit cheats'

Picture: KNP

Lincolnshire man who had £100,000 in savings and ran a market stall, claimed council tax benefit, disability allowance, income support and disability living allowance while taking luxury holidays and driving a new Mercedes.

In one local case Edwin Stubbs, previously of Shrubbote in Tenterden, was sentenced to 200 hours community service at Maidstone Crown Court. He claimed more than £15,000 in benefits despite earning up to £38,000-a-year as a builder.

A council spokesman said: "The good news is that the figures show Ashford does seem to be performing better than other local authorities when it comes to tackling this issue."

Deputy council leader, Paul Bartlett, added: "Information from the public is vital to us and we investigate every report we receive."

"I encourage anyone who has information or suspects someone – maybe a neighbour or colleague – of committing benefit fraud.

"Every time someone claims fraudulently they are effectively stealing from every council tax payer in the borough.

"They are robbing money which should be spent on improving Ashford as a place to live, work and visit."

• If you know anyone who is claiming benefits they are not entitled to, call the Ashford council's fraud team direct on 01233 330453 or the hotline 08000 262456.

VIEW THIS CLIP ON

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Your LOCAL TV ONLINE



Let them Tentertain you

TENTERDEN is set for one of the highlights of its year on Sunday as a host of top-class musicians take to the stage in a massive free open-air concert.

The recreation ground will be hosting Tentertainment and you can catch a special preview of all the fun on our free broadband website.

Host Julie Maddocks popped down ahead of the event to find out what our readers can expect.

The concert will be headlined by world-renowned jazz quartet, whose infectious blend of jazz, jive, swing and rockabilly

has led them to play alongside an eclectic mix of world-class performers, including Jools Holland and his Rhythm and Blues Orchestra, the Pogues and Jose Carreras.

Other performers include swing maestros The Interceptors (pictured) and local band D-FinItive.

Apart from the live music there will be entertainers, the Kent Circus School, and fun and games for all the family.

The event runs from noon until 8pm.

• To view our preview clip, log-on to www.yourkenttv.co.uk and search 'Tentertainment'.

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NUISANCE: Drivers responsible for the skidmarks at the Stour Centre risk having their cars seized if caught, say police

'Doughnut' drivers causing a mayhem in centre's car park

■ BY ED HILL

BOY racers have been leaving their mark on the new car park area close to the Stour Centre.

And now they've been told their high-speed antics could result in them losing their cars, with dozens being identified by CCTV cameras and being told to clean up their acts.

Handbrake turns, wheel spins and so called 'doughnuts' where drivers spin their cars almost on their own axis, have left the car park covered in black rubber marks.

Residents in the nearby Mill Court have had their late nights ruined by the noise and smell caused by burning rubber, screeching wheels and thumping car stereos.

But the police say there is no escape for the drivers who can have their cars seized by the authorities if captured on camera.

A police spokesperson said: "These late-night boy racers have created a real nuisance for local people living in the area."

"Following a number of complaints from residents regarding the noise and anti-

social behaviour in the car park of the Stour Centre, police in Ashford, working with Ashford CCTV monitoring centre, have sent a letter to car owners whose vehicles have been seen in the vicinity.

The monitoring centre collects details of all cars seen in the car park causing a problem and a letter is sent to registered keepers advising them that the police will use footage of any offences and anti-social behaviour regarding vehicles under Section 59 of the Road Traffic Act."

PC Steve Gamble, anti-social behaviour investigator, said: "This act allows us to seize vehicles causing a nuisance to members of the public."

The car park area was opened to accommodate visitors using the new Stour Centre extension which opened last September but it now seems a tempting arena for reckless drivers to perform their stunts.

Residents of Mill Court have complained their houses are vibrating due to the volume of the music from cars.

The police spokesperson added: "As part of our Safer Summer campaign an initiative is running in Ashford to target nuisance youths and anti-social behaviour."

Bands lined up to create some noise

THE cream of local musical talent will descend on Victoria Park on Sunday for the Create music extravaganza.

The free event runs from noon to 8pm and in the past has attracted 5,000 music lovers to soak up the festival atmosphere and enjoy the music.

Headlines will be the 21st Century Stones – a tribute act to Mick Jagger and his wrinkly rockers.

To get a taste of what to expect, visit our online music showcase on our free, broadband TV site www.yourkenttv.co.uk. Search 'the ether'.

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Your LOCAL TV ONLINE



yourashford NEWS IN BRIEF

'Restaurant will be pride of the county'

TV CHEF Richard Phillips is to open a new restaurant at the Chapel Down Vineyard in Tenterden.

The former Young Chef of the Year regularly appears on Ready Steady Cook and ITV's Daily Cooks. He believes the new venture will be able to highlight the best of the areas produce and wines.

The new restaurant will be called Richard Phillips@Chapel Down.

The new restaurant will mean a £1m investment at the site of Chapel Down's winery in Tenterden with a new state of the art kitchen and dining area.

Mr Phillips said: "Good restaurants outside London are few and far between. However, Kent is going through a significant transformation."

"What we are creating at Chapel Down will be a catalyst for an acceleration of the trend towards great local food, imaginatively prepared and served and complimented by our wonderful local wines.

"I think this will be a restaurant for the whole of Kent to feel proud about."

Firefighting skills set to be put to the test

A GROUP of part-time firefighters from the station at Headcorn have been asked to represent Kent in a national competition testing their skills.

They will be tested on the ability to fight fires while using breathing apparatus at the Fire Service College in Gloucestershire.

Stuart Albon Headcorn watch manager said: "This is the sort of scenario crews may be called to at any time – we regularly train using both live-fire and smoke simulators."

"The team at Headcorn is made up of retained firefighters who all live and work in the local community."

TV licences getting a better reception

THE number of TV licence dodgers has dropped in the town and the figures show it has improved its position on the list of shame.

Last year 188 licence evaders were caught in Ashford meaning it is now 13th on the list out of the 15 Kent towns that were surveyed. Last year it was sixth.

The worst town in Kent was Chatham with 416 licence dodgers. Nationally, more than 209,000 evaders since the start of 2008.

Joanna Pearce, TV Licensing spokesperson, said: "Our database shows precisely which properties are unlicensed, meaning we can target addresses where we suspect people are watching TV illegally."

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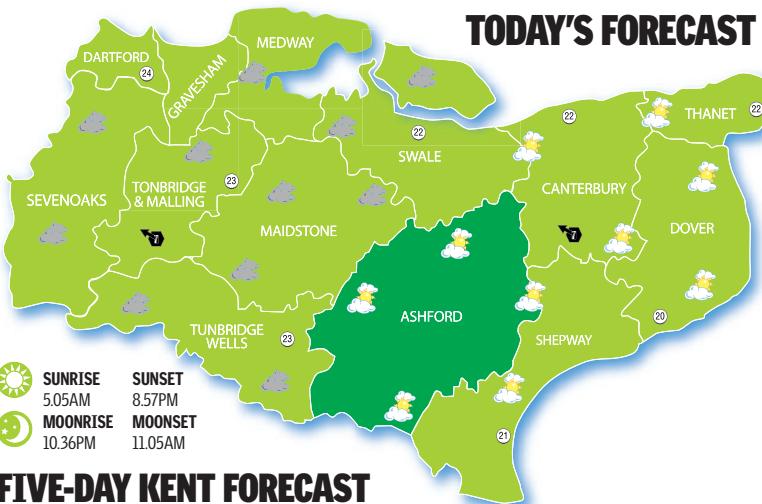
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TODAY'S FORECAST



WEEKEND HIGH TIDES

Chatham	Saturday	5:22pm	5.7m
	Sunday	6:00am	5.5m
Dover	Saturday	3:42pm	6.4m
	Sunday	4:28pm	6.3m
Dungeness	Saturday	3:38pm	7.5m
	Sunday	4:25pm	7.3m
Ramsgate	Saturday	4:12pm	4.9m
	Sunday	4:58pm	4.8m
Sheerness	Saturday	5:11pm	5.5m
	Sunday	5:53pm	5.4m
Whitstable	Saturday	5:04pm	5.2m
	Sunday	5:50pm	5.0m

FIVE-DAY KENT FORECAST

	Thur	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon
Ashford	23°C	23°C	24°C	27°C	26°C
Canterbury	21°C	22°C	23°C	25°C	24°C
Chatham	22°C	22°C	22°C	24°C	24°C
Dartford	24°C	24°C	26°C	27°C	26°C
Dover	20°C	20°C	21°C	22°C	20°C
Faversham	22°C	22°C	22°C	24°C	24°C
Folkestone	20°C	20°C	21°C	22°C	20°C
Gillingham	22°C	22°C	22°C	24°C	24°C
Gravesend	24°C	24°C	26°C	27°C	26°C
Maidstone	24°C	24°C	26°C	27°C	26°C
Ramsgate	21°C	22°C	23°C	25°C	24°C
Rochester	22°C	22°C	22°C	24°C	24°C
Sevenoaks	23°C	22°C	24°C	25°C	24°C
Sittingbourne	22°C	22°C	22°C	24°C	24°C
Tonbridge	23°C	23°C	25°C	27°C	25°C
Tun Wells	23°C	23°C	25°C	27°C	25°C



AROUND THE WORLD YESTERDAY

Amsterdam	13°C	Madrid	32°C
Athens	36°C	New York	34°C
Barcelona	26°C	Paris	19°C
Beijing	31°C	Rome	27°C
Bombay	30°C	Sydney	17°C
Cape Town	16°C	Tenerife	28°C
Cardiff	17°C	Tokyo	29°C
Gibraltar	30°C	Vancouver	22°C
Hong Kong	33°C	Warsaw	15°C
Las Palmas	25°C	Wellington	13°C

yourashford NEWS IN BRIEF

Principal ready for merger challenge

TROUBLED South Kent College has named the new principal who will steer it through a proposed merger.

Monica Box will take charge at the college, which has a campus on Jemmett Road and includes the Ashford School of Art and Design, on August 1.

South Kent College has received poor Ofsted reports in recent years. The Learning Skills Council – a central government body that funds further education colleges – was brought in and it came up with the merger option.

As principal of City College Manchester, Ms Box successfully led merger preparations and is also credited with turning round Calderdale College in West Yorkshire.

She said: "I look forward to assisting South Kent College in giving an excellent service to its community."

"I intend to join the college well ahead of the beginning of a new term to support staff in getting everything in place ready to welcome our learners in September."

The college recently announced it would seek a merger with either West Kent College or Sussex Downs College. However, Ms Box says the college can still improve before that happens.

She said: "It is important the college should be a strong single entity and be a worthwhile partner college. If merger can strengthen and enhance skills development in South Kent, it should be welcomed."

In the week beginning August 18, Ms Box will be holding drop-in sessions at the learning centres at each of the South Kent College campuses in Ashford, Dover and Folkestone. It means anyone thinking of joining the college as a student can find out about its future.

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QUESTION & ANSWER

CHRIS BAILEY



QA

Chris Bailey, who set up the Right Track Music School, has helped in the organisation of this year's Create music festival which takes place in Victoria Park on Saturday from noon until 8pm. He talks to ED HILL.

Q How long have you lived in Ashford?

A I was born in Willesborough and I went to Willesborough infant and juniors before studying at the North School.

Q What does the Create festival aim to achieve?

A I feel it offers the chance for young people to perform to an audience, giving them a stepping stone and confidence to perhaps perform elsewhere. It's also a great way of bringing people together, giving a sense of community in Ashford. Music has a magical way of bringing all kinds of people together.

Q You held the auditions for the Create festival recently. What was the quality of the musicians like?

A The musicians who attended were of a very high standard, making the job of selecting even more difficult. We had a good mix of bands and solo artists.

Q Why did you start the music school? What is the philosophy behind it?

A I have been teaching guitar at home for around 12 years. I had a studio in my youth so it felt like a good time to expand my tuition into a music school that Ashford badly needed, offering tuition on all the other popular instruments. The philosophy behind the school is my ethos that playing music should be a fun experience, whether you wish to play for pleasure, in a band or want to make a career out of it.

Q What would you say are the benefits of learning an instrument?

A The obvious benefits are bringing pleasure to the player and those who wish to listen. Other benefits for children are that it may give them a sense of discipline and dedication to learning, ultimately giving them a great sense of achievement and self-confidence.

Q Do you think the music scene is too dominated by guitar bands?

A I think more so than ever the music scene is very diverse these days and offers many genres to the public. Guitar bands are always going to be dominant but I don't think that is in any way a negative thing, the important point is that people continue to play music, whatever the style.

Q What is the best concert you have ever played in?

A I would say playing at the Wembley music show and at the Leas Cliff Hall. I also played a couple of times at the Create festival.

Q Did you go to Zoo8 - what do you think the pitfalls of running a festival can be?

A I didn't manage to get to Zoo8 (I was working) but I know a fellow musician who played and said it was a great experience. But I also heard that some bands did not play due to various issues. I guess that could be one of the pitfalls, along with the fact that your audience may not turn up either.

Q Who were your musical heroes? What is it you admired about them?

A My first guitar hero was Eddie van Halen who just mesmerised me with his playing, inspiring me to start learning. I would also say Hendrix, just because of the feeling he put into his playing. I have a huge amount of respect for Prince; a musical genius.

Q What do you think of the town? Both generally and in terms of the music scene?

A The music scene is really growing at present with us at the Right Track Music School and the Downtown Diner putting on more bands. What we really need is a dedicated music venue, which would attract more well-known bands.

Q What do you think of the effect of modern technology like sampling? Does it get in the way of learning an instrument?

A No, I don't think so, because to sample something you or someone has got to play it in the first place.

Q What would you say to people thinking of coming to Create?

A Come along and see what local bands are playing and enjoy the family and fun atmosphere. We have our own students playing on the Right Track Music School stage who would really appreciate your support, for most of our students it will be their first experience of playing to an audience.

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EDITOR'S CHOICE

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Drug arrests rise after dealers are targeted

■ BY NICK AMES

CRIME across the county has dropped by 10.3 per cent in the last year, according to the latest statistics.

A total of 15,133 fewer offences were committed between April, last year, and this March, compared with the previous year.

But the same figures revealed an rise of 18 per cent in offences relating to drugs.

Reductions were seen in the areas of violent crime, criminal damage, burglary and vehicle crime.

Police say the rise in drugs offences is a result of the work undertaken to destroy networks.

The force said the total of 3,524 recorded drugs offences – up 548 on 2007 – was because of officers' success in destroying supply networks.

Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beatridge called the latest figures "good news".

He said: "It is encouraging that the number of crimes being committed continues to fall even now and we will work hard to continue to improve the reductions we've seen in the last year."

Police said across the county the chances of being a victim of crime are decreasing, with 80 offences to every 1,000 persons.

This figure is higher than in the neighbouring county of Surrey, but police have stressed a "like for like" comparison is not appropriate as Kent has more areas of deprivation.

Mr Beatridge said: "The commitment of Kent Police, our officers and staff, and the help we receive from the public have all contributed towards this excellent achievement in tackling and reducing crime.

"Our neighbourhood policing teams have formed close relationships with the communities they are protecting and serving, enabling officers to deal with local crime issues more easily."

He added that the increase in reported drug offences was a reflection of the good work of officers in this area.



HARD KNOCKS: A police officer forces open a door during a raid targeting a class A drugs network in Maidstone

"Context must be applied here, as this shows we are targeting drug dealers," he said.

"No one wants to see dealers in the midst of a community, selling drugs to children. If we are

contacted by concerned people we will act to combat this menace. My message to the drug dealers is: watch out. We will come after you and you will end up in prison."

KCC defends Zimbabwe shares link

THE Green Party has accused Kent County Council of supporting Robert Mugabe's "despotic" regime in Zimbabwe.

The party claims KCC has more than a £100 million in shares in companies which have some involvement with the troubled African state. They say the authority has ignored calls for an ethical investment policy.

The Greens say KCC has £109.5 million invested in companies they claim have links with Zimbabwe.

These are mining groups Anglo American and Rio Tinto, oil giants BP and Shell and banks Standard Chartered and Barclays.

Spokesman Stuart Jeffrey said: "The Mugabe regime has been condemned by all the major parties in the UK, yet county councillors refuse to consider the effects of their inaction.

"Councillors should be called to account for their part in supporting unethical investments in the face of almost universal condemnation.

"David Cameron has called for his party to examine its morals when it comes to investing, yet both Tory and Lib Dem councillors are prepared to maintain investments."

A KCC spokesman said: "The council is responsible for the management of the £2.6 billion Kent pension fund. The fund covers about 200 public sector employers in the county and has about 40,000 scheme members and another 40,000 pensioners.

"The fund committee has to get the best returns it can, otherwise the burden of the costs of pensions could fall on taxpayers. We leave decisions about which companies to invest in to investment managers as we need to maximise our returns and hold the managers accountable for their performance."

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STUDIO 2 06.45-07.30 Begin to Spin 09.30-10.30 Body Step 10.30-11.30 Body Combat 11.45-12.45 Stretch, Tone & Relax 13.00-14.00 Vibe Cycle 17.00-17.45 Vibe Cycle 18.00-18.45 Spin 19.00-20.00 Beginners Yoga 20.00-21.00 Pilates	STUDIO 2 06.45-07.30 Spin 09.30-10.15 Vibe Cycle 10.30-11.30 Pilates 1 12.45-13.45 Fitness Pilates 17.00-18.00 Vibe Cycle 18.15-19.00 On The Ball 19.15-20.15 Vibe Cycle 20.15-21.00 Spin	STUDIO 2 06.45-07.45 Freestyle Step 09.30-10.30 Body Combat 10.30-11.30 Body Step 18.00-19.00 Vibe Cycle 19.15-20.00 Vibe Cycle	STUDIO 2 06.45-07.45 Spin 09.30-10.30 Vibe Cycle 10.45-11.30 Yoga 18.00-19.00 Vibe Cycle	STUDIO 2 09.30-10.30 Pilates 2 10.45-11.30 Fitness Yoga 13.15-14.00 Spin 18.00-19.00 Pilates 1	STUDIO 2 08.15 - 09.00 Vibe Cycle 09.30 - 10.30 Vibe Cycle
AQUA 10.30-11.15 Aqua	SPECIAL INTERESTS 09.30-10.20 Plan B	AQUA 09.30-10.15 Aqua 11.30-12.30 Aquafit 19.00-19.45 Aqua	AQUA 09.30-10.15 Aqua 18.45-19.30 Aqua	AQUA 09.15-10.15 Swim fit 10.30-11.15 Aqua	AQUA 10.30-11.15 Aqua
SPECIAL INTERESTS 10.00-11.00 Plan B			SPECIAL INTERESTS 19.00-20.00 Plan B		STUDIO 1 08.15-09.00 LBT 10.00-10.30 BTS Clinic 10.30-11.30 Body Pump 11.45-12.45 Beginners Yoga
					STUDIO 2 09.15-10.15 Spin 10.30-11.30 Chi Ball 17.00-17.45 Vibe Cycle
					AQUA 09.15-10.00 Power Aqua

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Hook up with a book for the Kent Year of Reading

BY FAITH RIDING

LIFE is so much better when you read – an enduring message and one that is at the heart of the 2008 Kent Year of Reading – the county's contribution to the national campaign.

Designed to boost literacy levels and encourage everyone to make reading part of their daily lives, the year-long programme was launched at County Hall in Maidstone in April.

School children joined Kent County Council cabinet members on a sofa, a bed and deckchairs for a morning of storytelling, to help illustrate great places to read.

Getting as many people as possible involved in the campaign has been made easier thanks to a broad programme of events in the county libraries.

There was a 'Living Library' in Sevenoaks – one of only four nationwide – which allowed customers to borrow people from different professions and walks of life for a conversation, and a 'Library in the Park' in Dartford which opened on July 1 so that books could be browsed and borrowed in the great outdoors.

Inspiration

Other activities have included incentive schemes to encourage reading, author talks and a song writing competition in Dover – reinforcing the message that the skill of reading is vital in all aspects of life including music.

More activities are planned – the most immediate is this year's Reading Challenge which has an Olympic theme and encourages young people to spend some of the long summer break with their noses in books.

The campaign has also been the inspiration behind the Kent Story – county council leader Paul Carter penned an opening chapter for 12 books, one for each district, which are travelling from school to school with pupils writing their



BOOKS FOR ALL: These children joined in the fun for an initiative designed to encourage us all to enjoy the written word

own contribution to continue the tales.

The project is being guided by the imaginations of the county's young writers and artists and the finished books will be put on display at County Hall and then in libraries across the county.

Work is also going on with prison inmates, young offenders and adult learners – with a focus on how improved literacy levels can open doors and radically change prospects at work and at home.

"At the heart of all this activity is the determination to change people's attitudes to reading, particularly among those who don't consider it important or relevant to their lives," says strategic manager Gill Bromley, who is leading the project.

"The Kent Year of Reading is not just about events – although these are a wonderful way to encourage the community to get involved.

"Our main aim is to target those people for whom reading presents a challenge or isn't that important.

Vital

"The best way to change this mindset is to encourage and promote the idea that literacy can help in so many aspects of life – it's not just about settling down with a novel – but vital for surfing the net, applying for a passport or even reading the instructions on the microwave."

What about 2009 and beyond – will all this activity just stop? "Absolutely not," says Ms Bromley. "The most important thing for us will be to establish the Kent Year of Reading's legacy and ensure that this commitment to improving literacy levels and generating reading passion continues. Every year should be a Year of Reading."

Officers to lead way with e-life initiative

A LEADERSHIP Academy has been launched by Kent police to develop the abilities of all officers – from police community support officers to area commanders.

It will record each participant's developing abilities on the force's internal internet – giving officers an "e-life" of how they are getting on in the training programmes.

The academy was set up at the request of Chief Constable Michael Fuller, at the force headquarters in Maidstone, to spot and develop leadership talent and, ultimately, achieve higher standards of performance.

The academy training is being tailored specifically to Kent's needs.

This includes live simulation training to test leadership and decision-making skills in a range of scenarios and critical incident situations.

Participants update their "e-life" regularly to show how their approach to their day-to-day work has benefited.

Mr Fuller said: "Leadership is important at every level in the force.

"We look to select leaders who inspire, motivate, set standards, support their staff and recognise good work.

"This is why I was keen to invest in ensuring we have skilled and talented leaders for the future.

"I believe, through an innovative approach to training that includes live simulation of a range of scenarios our leaders could encounter, we will continue to improve our performance.

"The feedback from those who have already taken part in the programme has been resoundingly positive."

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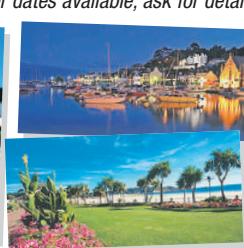
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Cheer up, it might never happen. Summer, that is

SEASONAL Affective Disorder, you may remember, was the affliction of choice a few years back.

It was the reason, we were told, so many of us feel glum during the winter months. A lack of bright light apparently turns some of us a little blue.

It's a catchy little title for what many would consider simply our natural reaction to cold dark nights and, well, cold dark days.

Few of us manage to raise much of a smile, after all, when we wake up to darkness, endure a day of darkness in the office, then make the jaunt home by the power of moonlight. Assuming, of course, it's not cloudy. Which it normally is.

We don't even get a bit of snow any more to lighten the mood and give us all a couple of extra days at home snuggling under the duvet, popping out to build the obligatory snowman and chuck a few icy snowballs in some poor unfortunate's direction.

But by April, in theory, the gloom lifts and so do your spirits. So imagine how frustrating

2008 must be for those with a penchant for a dose of SAD every year. No sooner does the sun poke its warm little head out from behind a cloud than everything else goes to pot.

You may well have been saving during those rainy days for a bit of a summer splurge, but instead that cash is now going on a splash of petrol.

We hardly need reminding that petrol prices have rocketed faster than Lewis Hamilton out of the pits, or that fuel bills are hotting up to an overdraft-nudging level.

And while the housing market belly flops like a sumo wrestler plummeting from a ten-storey building, there isn't much to put that smile on the face of the SAD sufferer.

Which is a shame, because summers are supposed to be one long, hot affair, where we all don flip-flops for three months and laugh at work colleagues who forgot the sun cream and impersonic tomatoes for the duration.

It was always going to be a bit glum, too, given the weather forecast. Warm and wet is not a heart-warmer. And so it has proved. If the summer keeps plodding along as it has so

far, then no doubt floods will be sweeping in come September.

So we all need a bit of cheering up. But how?

Well, there's some good news for those who can still afford to run a car and commute to work on our roads. Because as of this week, the school holidays kick in which means everyone will spend the next few weeks getting to work 15 minutes earlier on account of the lack of traffic.

And if you get to work early you can cram in some quality creeping to the boss, which will enhance your job prospects and ensure that when you get turned down for a pay rise due to the economy, they'll at least break the news to you nicely, rather than a cursory email telling you "don't even think about it".

So if you do suffer from SAD, at least you'll only be swapping the gloom of summer for the gloom of winter, so you might not notice the difference. Something to smile about, surely?

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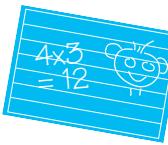
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WINNERS: Victorious pupils from the Phoenix Primary School show off their bikes decorated with African animals

■ BY ED HILL

PHOENIX Primary School in Kennington has won the Tour of Africa virtual bike ride.

The event has been contested between both primary and secondary schools across the borough over the past month.

The schools competed with one another by building up kilometres depending on how many of the children, parents and teachers cycled to school. The distance of every journey was totalled up to simulate the real Tour D'Afrique which runs from Cairo to Cape Town.

Other schools taking part in the bike ride were the Norton Knatchbull, Towers, St Simon Catholic School, Godinton Primary, St Mary's and Highworth Grammar School.

A number of events were held at schools taking part to encourage children to cycle. It has included Doctor Bike days when children took their cycles to school to be repaired, African breakfasts and a Beauty and the Bike project at the Towers.

The race was keenly fought, particularly between the Phoenix School and St S' mon', although Phoenix came out on top comple-

ting the distance in only 13 days; almost a week earlier than expected.

It is part of the Sustrans charity's work to encourage more children to cycle to school.

David Robert, Sustrans' Bike It officer for the town, says the competition has been a big success.

He said: "The children have loved every minute of it and they have seen how easy it is to cycle to school. It is vital that we give young people the opportunity to travel in ways which are healthy, sustainable and fun."

The charity plans to run future events in the town to encourage more cycling.

Mr Robert added: "We help to let parents know there are safe cycle routes to school. Ashford has some great routes for children to use. Ashford is really becoming a cycle friendly town."

The school was presented with two new bikes for students. They also took part in a competition to decorate their bikes like African animals.

Marian White, family liaison officer at the school, said: "This has made a huge impact at the school. The number of children wanting to cycle to school has increased. We have also had parents cycling to school and we will now be starting a bike club in September."

BREAK TIME

An early start for young lifesavers

PUPILS from Benenden Primary School took a break from lessons to spend the afternoon learning first-aid skills.

The children, aged 10 and 11, visited Benenden Hospital where they were taught CPR, control of bleeding and how to put someone in the recovery position.

Carol March, the hospital's clinical nurse teacher, said: "The sooner children start to learn first aid, the better. It has become a well known fact that some children have



saved the life of a family member or friend from simple basic first aid knowledge."

The hospital also runs other first aid courses – call 01580 242439.

Old girls, new name, same high standards

ASHFORD School Old Girls' Association held a gala drinks evening recently.

The celebration also gave the group a chance to change its name to the Ashford School Association, as the school is now

fully co-educational.

To find out more about the association and their get-togethers, visit [www.ashfordschoolassociation.co.uk](#) or call Alexia Padgham on 01303 814818.

SEND your schools news and pictures to yourashford@kosmedia.co.uk. You can also upload your video clips of schools events on to [www.yourkenttv.co.uk](#)

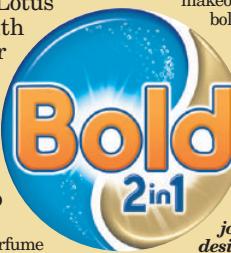
yourcompetition

WIN! An elegant, ISSA designer scarf worth £195

BOLD 2in1 White Diamond and Lotus Flower have teamed up with London based fashion designer Daniella "ISSA" Helayel to create an exclusive, luxury designer scarf – the ultimate accessory of the moment that will add a touch of everyday elegance to your wardrobe, and we have two to give away!

Created in partnership with a leading perfume house, the elegant scent of Bold 2in1 White Diamond and Lotus Flower adds a touch of luxury to your laundry, allowing you to indulge yourself in a beautiful fragrance that can help you feel more elegant every day.

The Bold 2in1 White Diamond and Lotus Flower Everyday Elegance Boutique is touring the country. To learn how to achieve everyday elegance with a selection of complimentary experiences including: stylist consultation, make up



makeover and hair styling, visit www.indulgewithbold.com to see where we are going next.

Bold 2in1 have also teamed up with Lucia Van Der Post, style writer and author of Things I Wish My Mother Had Told Me – Lessons in Grace and Elegance. You will also receive your very own pocket edition of Lucia's book revealing all her secrets to style and elegance.

To enter, simply answer the following simple question:

Q) Which Italian fashion house has joined Bold 2in1 to create the luxury designer scarf?

Send your entry on a postcard along with your email address (if applicable), name, address, and daytime telephone number to BOLD 2in1 Competition, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent, TN25 6SR.

Closing date is Thursday, 4 August, 2008.

No purchase necessary. For our full terms and conditions please visit www.kentnews.co.uk or call 01303 817073. If you do not wish to receive any literature please write 'no literature' on your entry.



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Sandringham Estate	12 Aug	£29
Mystery Day Trip	12 Aug	£19
Palace of Westminster & Lunch Cruise	14 Aug	£52
London Showtime - choice of shows	16 Aug	fr £46
Alton Towers	16 Aug	£45
Cruise - Windsor return with Cream Tea	19 Aug	£33
Wisley Gardens Flower Show	21 Aug	£27
Ghent, Belgium	22 Aug	£30
Isle of Wight Explorer	23 Aug	£39
Thorpe Park	25 Aug	£39
De Panne, Belgium - bank holiday	25 Aug	£25
George Michael - bank holiday	25 Aug	£85
Cadbury World	26 Aug	£34
Boulogne or Le Touquet, France	27 Aug	£25
Tutankhamun - last chance!	30 Aug	£37
Cruise Runnymede to Windsor	2 Sep	£28
Ypres, Battlefield Tour & Last Post	3 Sep	£39
Portsmouth or Southsea	4 Sep	£24
Phantom Of The Opera	6 Sep	£54
London Eye, Carvery & River Cruise	7 Sep	£59
Ashdown Forest Drive & Cream Tea	9 Sep	£27
Frogmore House & Savill Gardens	11 Sep	£35
Bruges or Sluis	14 Sep	£30
Eastbourne Lunch & Country Drive	16 Sep	£25
Barry Manilow	4 Dec	£75

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yourletters

TALK TIME

ANNE AMIGONI

The owner of the Bakudi furniture shop in New Rents, Anne Amigoni, discusses her business and views on the town.

How long have you been here?

We have been in Ashford for 10 years. We started in County Square and then moved to this shop eight years ago. We also import and supply furniture for other people. We are supplying some furniture for 11 properties in Notting Hill.

How did you get into the business?

I have always been interested in design. I believe that if you get the right piece of furniture in the right space it will look good for a long time, no matter how fashion changes. You can always create new colour schemes to complement it. I believe less is more, furniture should be functional. That is why we make sure it is made in useful sizes for storage.

Where does your furniture come from?

It is made in Rajasthan, India. We have built up a long-standing relationship with our suppliers to improve the quality over the years. We know the workers are treated well and we insure that all the timber comes from properly certificated forests. We also import fantastic reclaimed woodwork.

What do you think of Ashford?

When we first moved here we thought Ashford and the countryside was beautiful. We must not lose the essence of the place. I think the ring road has been a real slog for the town. Times are tough at the moment for retail. More shops should be open on a Sunday. We have always opened on a Sunday and have sometimes taken more money than a normal day. It is important for people to know when they come to town the shops will be open for them. Shops need to go that extra mile.



YOUR LETTERS

FUTURE IMAGE: An artist's impression of one of the new planned blocks by Zedelius

Rejection of eco-housing is overruled

BY ED HILL

A PIONEERING eco-housing development in Victoria has been given the go-ahead after an independent panel of experts rejected most of the steering group's concerns over the project's environmental footprint.

Margaret Ludlow
By email

Keep your nose out - no ghettos here

Oh dear, now Hazel Blears has poked her nose into yet another unwanted blight on Ashford and the surrounding area (Rejection of eco-housing is overruled, July 9).

Ashford cannot cope with such enormous, out-of-keeping structures in the middle of the town. All this talk of eco-friendly is just spin.

The fact of the matter is that Ashford, which was a sleepy market town, cannot cope with all that has been brought upon it by Prescott and co, wanting more and more housing and now Hazel Blears going against the council who know their town better than she does.

Ashford council knows that with all the unpopular schemes they have on their plates, lorry parks, new junctions, waste plants, this is yet another which the people of Ashford do not want.

The buildings themselves are so out of keeping, they look like potential 1960s ghettos, which is

a very retrograde step.

These sorts of buildings are being knocked down as people hate living in them. People want a bit of green grass, trees, children want to play on ground level, and some countryside, not high-rise glass/concrete blocks.

If this site has been derelict for such a long time why wasn't it used as a temporary lorry park to ease the stress of the people at Wilesborough and the Orbital Park? Why not use the lovely building in Wye as an environmental learning centre, before it gets into such a bad state of disrepair. We do not want more buildings and concrete in Ashford.

Margaret Ludlow
By email

Zoo8 festival put me off going again

I went to Zoo8 this year and agree with what people have been saying, that it was really badly organised.

My first concern is that the website stated the car park fee would be £5, when actually it cost us £10.

Secondly, the toilets where a disgrace and the amount of rubbish around them was terrible. Was there nobody there to pick up rubbish or empty the bins?

The policing of the event was poor too.

Maybe if there had been a police presence in there to start with the (female) friend I was with might not have been hit repeatedly in the face by a bloke who was quite obviously high on drugs and drink.

I would also like to point out I was approached several times by different people asking if I wanted to buy a number of different drugs.

It has seriously put me off ever going to another festival, and I

certainly won't be visiting another festival organised by Wildlife Events. I also hope that Port Lympne doesn't suffer as a result from the bad publicity.

Don't get me wrong – I enjoyed the bands and music but was disappointed by the lack of entertainment during the day and the general overall bad organisation of the event.

Tracey Wood
By email

Lorry park will 'desecrate' area, says TV's Paul

CHEAT SHEET: After Paul O'Grady had to build the temporary lorry park in the town square, he said: "I'm not the only one who thinks the site is a disgrace. The town would be better off without it." He was interviewed after Ashford's controversial scheme was rejected by the town council. Photo: Matthew Horwood

Don't be a NIMBY - lorries affect all

I find the comments made by Paul O'Grady (Lorry park will 'desecrate' area, says TV's Paul, Yourashford, July 9) quiet flippant and typical of NIMBYism.

The problem with freight and the roads is a countywide, if not nationwide, problem.

We all eat and consume items that are imported by road.

Dover, being the busiest ferry port in Europe if not the world, deals with 2.36 million freight units per year.

We have up to 10,000 freight movements passing through a two-mile stretch of road which has 3,600 residents living in close proximity.

To make a throwaway comment like he did is not a way to resolve a countywide problem.

Les Richmond
Chairman, Dover A20 Action Group.

John Pinniger
Via comments left on
www.yourashford.co.uk

DAB uses different frequencies to rest

Further to your story last week (DAB radio fails to make waves with listeners, Yourashford, July 16), I would like to raise an issue with one of the comments.

Paul Nicholson from the East Kent Radio Society said: "It is similar to the changeover to digital television. At the moment we are all suffering poor performance because of the space that the original analogue transmitters take up."

This cannot be right for DAB – it uses frequencies that are clear in Band III.

Politicians: stop living off the public

MPs and MEPs abuse their position and make us poor in order to get fully-furnished second homes and other jollies at our expense.

It is time they paid for their own comfort.

Ann Widdecombe was heard on radio recently saying that people do not expect MPs to live in unfurnished bedsits in outer suburbs – but why not let Derek Conwy and all of them keep in touch and live in less salubrious conditions to remind them what the rest of the population has to put up with?

From my experience politicians are thick, insensitive and manipulative – it goes with the territory.

We can choose estate agents, change banks and avoid dodgy garages but how can we dump lousy MPs who disgrace themselves?

Rita Grootendorst
By email

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Family tough it to the top



HOT ACT: The Cherryholmes and Elizabeth Cook (inset) perform bluegrass and country at the Zebra Bar

FROM dodging bullets to scoring hits, the Cherryholmes family have truly triumphed over adversity.

This unlikely-looking group are one of the hottest acts on the American bluegrass scene, blowing audiences away with their talent.

Their first album to be released on a record label reached number three in the Billboard bluegrass chart and earned them a Grammy nomination, but just nine years ago half their members had never even picked up an instrument.

It was a terrible tragedy which prompted parents Jere and Sandy Lee to bring music into the family's lives.

In 1999 their oldest daughter Shelly died from chronic heart problems, aged just 20.

It was a dreadful time, not helped by the fact that the family were living in a tough Los Angeles neighbourhood.

The children frequently had to do their homework while crouched between their beds because of the threat of drive-by shootings, so a trip to a bluegrass festival provided the chance briefly to escape their prob-

lems and their grief. It was their first exposure to a genre which seemed completely alien, given their background, but the experience inspired Jere and Sandy to incorporate music in their children's home schooling.

It became a core part of their studies, which then developed into hours of playing together every night.

The children were aged between six and 15 at the time, but less than six months later the family were performing professionally.

Eldest daughter Cia Leigh began learning the guitar at the age of 15 but switched to the banjo, which she plays with outstanding power, and she is also a gifted singer.

Her brother BJ picked up a fiddle for the first time at 11 and is compared to some of the finest fiddlers in the business.

Skip is an excellent guitar picker with an aggressive rhythm style and left-handed Molly Kate plays fiddle, sings and writes songs to an astonishing level. Jere plays upright bass and sings, while Sandy Lee's mandolin, banjo and yodelling are real crowd pleasers.

The family spend about 300 days a year on the road, bunking in the bus and sharing passenger duty as Jere

drives through the night.

They self-released three albums before being signed to Skaggs Family Records and have toured internationally, as well as being regulars at the historic Grand Ole Opry in Nashville.

They will be stopping off in Maidstone on their way to headline the Cambridge Folk Festival.

Cherryholmes will be joined on the bill by Elizabeth Cook, who is described as "a bona fide country singer". A true traditional singer in the style of Loretta Lynn or Connie Smith, she appeared at the Grand Ole Opry more than 100 times before releasing her acclaimed debut album, Hey Y'all.

She is a talented singer, having co-written nine of the 11 tracks on her latest album Balls – including the brash anthem Sometimes It Takes Balls To Be A Woman.

The gig starts at 8pm and tickets cost £14 in advance or £16 on the door. To book, phone 01622 744481.

THE CHERRYHOLMES

Monday, July 28
Zebra Bar, Maidstone

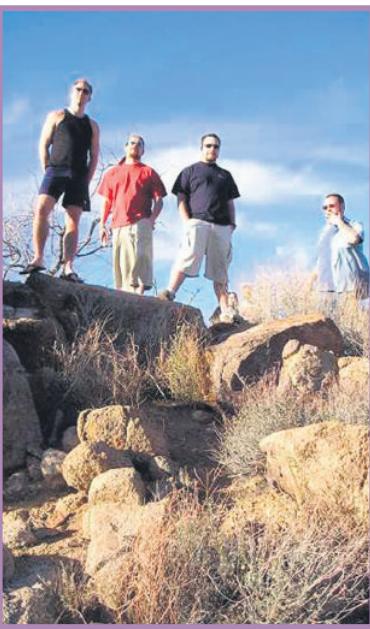


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CREATE 2008

Sunday, July 27
Victoria Park, Ashford



ASHFORD will be rocking this weekend when the best local bands take to the stage for Create 2008.

Topping the bill are 21st Century Stones, a top Rolling Stones tribute band, headlining a line-up that is bursting with high quality talent. Now in its thirteenth year, the event will welcome One Day Elliott (pictured), Los Salvadores, Springtide Cavalry, ShyChlo and the Boys, More than Normal, D-FiNiTiVe, Dolan's Cadillac, St Peter's Band, Under TheThumb and John Wood of Balbulus playing solo, all on the main stage.

On the Right Track Music Stage emerging acts include Charlotte Rose, Golden Retrievers, Flat Lung, Orca, Elephants and more. DJs Terrorist, I Am Spartacus, Woggle and Theo will be on the decks in the DJ tent along with Acetate Records and MC Tazer and DJ Top Dollar. With DJ and rock workshops happening throughout the day and lots of other attractions, it should be a fantastic day out for music fans.

The event will run from noon to 8pm and admission is free. Find out more at www.myspace.com/creatiefestival.

TENTERTAINMENT

Sunday, July 27
Recreation Ground, Tenterden



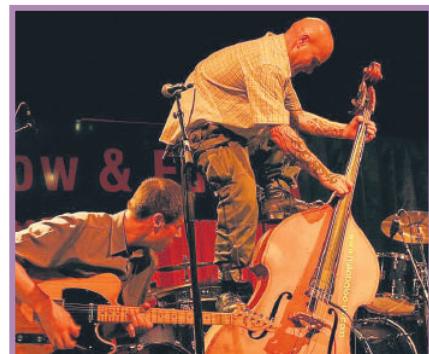
GET ready to move your dancing feet as Hullabaloo headlines at the very first Tentertainment Music Festival.

The renowned jazz quartet will bring their infectious brand of jive, swing and rockabilly to the free open air event. With their brilliant talent and great sense of fun, they have played alongside a diverse mix of high-profile performers such as Jools Holland, The Pogues and Jose Carreras.

The quartet has travelled to Paris, Dubai and Sun City and even played at the wedding of Jamie and Jools Oliver.

Supporting acts include indie band D-FiNiTiVe, described as Tenterden's answer to Keanne and Stereophonics, who have supported the Sugababes at Koko in Camden.

Kent-born singer/songwriter Isaac Howlett has joined forces with Paul Weller's bassist Dave Foster and drummer Jon Brooker, who has worked with Coldplay, to form the



acclaimed Isaac Howlett Band which will also be appearing.

Add punk rock band Quarter Bag and acoustic four-piece Sikhona to the mix and you have a great day's entertainment. There will also be entertainers, members of the Kent Circus School, local food, a beer tent and a cocktail tent. The event will run from noon to 8pm.

FACE YOUR FEARS

Sunday, July 27
Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, near Hythe



FACE your fears and meet some of the most chilling creepy crawlies at Port Lympne this weekend.

The mansion will welcome an array of special guests including snakes, spiders, lizards and even scorpions – all waiting to meet the park's visitors.

Children and adults alike are invited to handle these fascinating creatures and learn more about them, in the hope of banishing phobias and quashing fears.

Test your bravery by allowing a python or boa constrictor to wrap itself around your neck, or demonstrate your steely nature by letting a tarantula walk across your hand.

The event is certainly not for the faint-hearted, but there will be experts on hand to answer questions and help visitors to overcome their worries.

At previous Face Your Fears sessions, visitors have had the opportunity to meet 15ft python Monty, a 2ft Ackie Monitor and some rare scorpions.

The exciting event will be held in the mansion's Long Room and is free to anyone who has bought a ticket for the park that day. Another session will be held on Sunday, August 17.



For more information call 01303 264647 or visit www.totallywild.net

ASHFORD LEISURE

Appeal for youngsters to enter film festival

ASPIRING young filmmakers are invited to enter their work in the first ever Kino Kids Short Film Festival.

Anyone under 18 can submit and selected films will be shown at a Kent cinema, as part of Kent Summerscreen. It will be hosted by Ramsgate production company Medb Films.

Schools or individuals can submit films (less than 10 minutes long) on DVD for a fee of £4. Films must have been completed in the past 24 months. For a form and more details call 01843 852934 or visit www.medbfilms.com.

King Arthur comes back to life in the garden

THE Knights of the Round Table will come to life in the gardens of Godinton House, Ashford, on Sunday.

In the open air family production by Chapterhouse, a company of travelling players tells the story of arguably the greatest king of all time. The performance starts at 6.30pm and tickets cost £12/£7. Take rugs or low-backed chairs, picnics are welcome. To book go online at www.chapterhouse.org or call Godinton House on 01233 620773.

George to play host to night of Monkey magic

HEAR modern and classic rock covers played live when Monkey-See, Monkey-Do! performs in Ashford on Friday.

The band plays hits by a wide range of artists from Foo Fighters and Primal Scream to Jimi Hendrix.

The gig will be held at the George Hotel in High Street, starting at 9pm. Admission is free. For information about the venue call the George on 01233 625512.

Where's Brian promise a top hits jukebox at inn

EXPECT anything from Mac the Knife to Bohemian Rhapsody when watching a performance by Where's Brian?

The band has a versatile repertoire, including 50s rock n' roll, Motown and Queen, but will probably be playing 70s rock at the Woolpack Inn in Church Road, Smeeth, on Saturday.

The gig starts at 8.30pm. For more details call the pub on 01303 812196.

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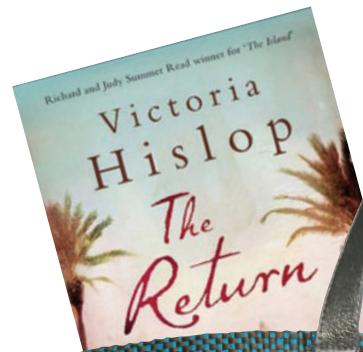


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Picnic bag,
price £26

ASHFORD SHOPPING

Children can now step out in style this summer

SEEKING a new pair of shoes for the holiday? Then one of the biggest names in footwear has boosted its range.

Clarks at the Ashford Designer Outlet will now stock a complete range of children's shoes, boots and trainers.

All footwear will be at least 30 per cent off high street prices. The store says a full measuring and fitting service will also be provided by trained staff.

Sip and surf when you visit new internet cafe

NEED to get on the web while you're out and about? Then mobile surfers can now log-on at an internet cafe based in GZ Computers in the County Square shopping complex.

And, what's more, the company says its new internet cafe is now even easier to use. Costs for spending time on the web range from £1 for 15 minutes, up to £3 for an hour.

The store says it is now also open on a Sunday from 11am-5pm.

Shoppers enter a new Phase at Designer Outlet

A NEW Phase Eight store has opened at the Ashford Designer Outlet.

The store specialises in classic fashion for women, offering a choice of smart day and evening wear, as well as coats, shoes and jewellery, with up to 50 per cent off typical high street prices.

Tanya Morris of the outlet centre said: "Phase Eight is increasingly popular with fashion-conscious women who like classic lines and original designs."

Phase Eight was founded in London by Patsy Seddon who named the brand after her maiden name P Hayes (Phase) and the number of her first shop (Eight).

Waste not, want not as you follow these tips

FOLLOWING Gordon Brown's declaration we are throwing away too much food, Ocado has some tips to avoid waste.

The online supermarket has asked celebrities such as chef Anthony Worrall Thompson and TV presenter Sarah Greene for their advice. The ten top tips include planning your weekly shop, checking the fridge before you go, reducing portion sizes and using up leftovers rather than chucking them.

Watch chef Arthur Potts-Dawson's guide to preparing recipes for surplus ingredients at www.youtube.com/ocadofwaw.

Fill your Boots with the foundations of beauty

BOOTS are offering a tempting free gift to customers.

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WOMEN'S SPOTLIGHT

TWO FOR TEE?

Bubbly, outgoing female, 21, blonde, medium build, loves country walks, fun nights out, playing golf etc. WLTM guy, 21-27, to share fun times! Box 891190 **TP**

FUN-LOVING

Fun to be with female, 23, 5'2", brown hair/blue eyes, medium build, seeks similar male, for friendship, fun, possibly more. Box 836575

NOT AFRAID OF HARD WORK?

Lively female, 26, 5'12, brown hair, green eyes, size 10, single mum, enjoys most things, seeks genuine, laid-back guy, for fun, friendship and more. Box 428555 **T**

SEE WHERE IT TAKES US

I'm 26, 5'10, enjoy going out, restaurants, pubs, cinema and cosy nights in, looking for someone tall to go out with possibly leading to relationship. Box 418077 **T**

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SNUGGLE UP

Tall, attractive, good hearted African female, 28yr old, enjoys films, good food and cuddles. WLTM a white male for friendship and romance. Box 441654 **T**

UP FOR LOVE?

Attractive female, very bubbly, 29, 5'14, short hair, blue eyes, for anything, seeking male 25-35, caring with good personality, kids welcome, for love. Box 442412

SOMEONE SPECIAL...

Single Mum, 39, dark hair/blue eyes, medium build, enjoys pubs, cinemas, eating out/DVDs, concert, WLTM honest, reliable male with GSOH to make me smile. Box 441195

PILLION DOLLAR BABE!

Slim lady, 31, shoulder-length dark hair, hazel eyes, loves having fun and meeting new people. Marry, the pub owner, please call and leave contact details! Box 433131 **T**

TRADE-TO-TRADE?

Travel-busy female, 24, 5'6, ambitious, relaxed, kind, sharing and game for a laugh, looking for a romantic long-term lover for potential life & romance. Box 442352

CUDLY FEMALE

32, 5'9, brown hair, curvy figure, enjoys having fun and a laugh, and WLTM nice, kind gent. Box 439402 **T**

CANTERBURY TALES

Single mum of 2, 32, WLTM someone kind, caring and considerate, for nights in/out and cinema. Ryan from Whistable, please call again, leave contact details! Box 406670 **T**

FUN-LOVING FEMALE

Attractive, 31, 5'4", size 10, dark hair with blonde highlights, teetotal, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 **TP**

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CHAT'S ENTERTAINMENT

Single girl, hard-working, kind and caring, 32, brown hair/eyes, nice smile, looking to meet similar, so let's see how it goes. Box 901072 **TP**

SENSUAL HEALING?

I'm a social, caring and sensual woman, 33, who enjoys having fun, conversation, arts, music and eating out, seeking a like-minded, upbeat man. Box 899177 **TP**

SIMPLY IRRESISTIBLE

Bubbly, genuine, honest, caring Mum of 1, 34, dark hair, blue eyes, loves nights in/out, seeking male, 30-40, with GSOH, for love and all. Box 437041 **T**

ANIMAL MAGIC!

Single, kind, caring animal lover, 34, from Kent, likes cooking, cinema, theatre, most music, seeks non-smoking male, 34-38, for LTR. Box 440782 **T**

HISTORIC MEETING?

Mum of three, 36, long mousey hair, blue eyes, interested in historical places, music, eating out, seeks kind, caring, genuine male 36-49, non-smoker, for LTR. Box 440693 **T**

WHAT'S ON?

Young, caring female, 26, 5'10, brown hair, blue eyes, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa dancing, seeking for a kind, caring, loyal male Box 431557 **T**

ANIMAL LOVER?

Nurse, 37yrs, 2 kids, 5'8, blonde hair, blue eyes, likes the gym, cooking, swimming, salsa dancing, seeking for a kind, caring, loyal male Box 431557 **T**

MAKE A LAUGH

Lonely, bored, professional Tunbridge Wells Asian lady, 40, WLTM slim, single, professional white male 40-50 for compa-ny, fun, love and laughter. Box 442303 **T**

SPIRITUAL EXPERIENCE

Kind, caring, spiritual lady, 39, 5'4", average build, hazel puppy-dog eyes, brown hair, looking for genuine, honest guy, non-smoker, friendfirst. Box 899694 **TP**

TOO MUCH TO ASK

Genuine female, 41, 5'3", brunette, brown eyes, medium build, enjoys meat out, music etc, seeks male, 38-42, for romance. Box 155275 **T**

ATTRACTION & SATISFACTION

Hard-working independent female, 41, dark brown hair, brown eyes, GSOH, enjoys cinema, eating in/out, seeking similar male with no issues for friendship first, then hopefully more. Box 442205 **T**

ATTRACTIVE BRUNETTE

Fun-loving, affectionate Brunette, 43, size 12, NS, separated amicably with 2 lovely kids, enjoys keeping fit. Seeks good-looking, slim, fit, romantic male. Box 814378 **TP**

THIS STATE OF INDEPENDENCE

Divorced, lively mum, 35, GSOH, I enjoy time with my family and friends, cinema, good food, beach walks, seeks male for honesty and romance. Box 813930 **TP**

MEND A BROKEN HEART

Single mum of three, 37, lives in Fasthouse, fun-loving, great to be around, been hurt in the past, heart has been broken and needs mending. Box 900553 **TP**

LOVE TO LOVE YOU

Loveable female, 36, 5'6, medium build, blonde hair, blue eyes, own house, loves walking, going out, the usual! Seeking male for long-term/serious relationship. Box 438102 **T**

CAROL SINGING

I'm Carol, friendly, sociable female, 35, love socialising, WLTM male, with similar interests, for stimulating times and maybe lasting relationship. Box 303551 **T**

BLONDE AMBITION

Bubbly, cuddly, blonde single mom, 38, 5'6, likes cars, reading, pubs, cosy nights in, having a laugh, looking for that right male for LTR. Box 906614 **TP**

YOUNG-AT-HEART

Attractive 38y old female, dark brown hair, blue eyes, curly physique, likes days out, music, concerts, cinema, walking, cycling, seeks loving, fun male, for friend-ship/relationship. Box 901893 **TP**

FUN-LOVING FEMALE

Attractive, 31, 5'4", size 10, dark hair with blonde highlights, teetotal, WLTM intelligent, professional, attractive guy, for a happy relationship. Tunbridge Wells. Box 308734 **TP**

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BLACK MAGIC

Living black female, 49y old, slim, enjoys cooking, dancing and socialising, WLTM a gentle man for a romantic relationship. Box 441839 **T**

HOPE YOU FIT THE BILL

Slim blonde, 41, 5ft10, attractive, young looking, enjoys dancing, holidays abroad and driving, WLTM a kind and friendly male to share life with. Box 442515 **T**

AFFECTIONATE,

Divorced female, 50, slim/petite, blonde hair, blue eyes, non-smoker, GSOH, likes walks, cinema, eating, swimming, travelling, WLTM N/S man to share things with. Box 426682 **T**

READ ALL ABOUT IT

Petite, sincere woman, 44, wavy blonde hair, blue eyes, non-smoker, GSOH, likes walks, cinema, eating, swimming, travelling, WLTM N/S man to share things with. Box 426682 **T**

LOVE IS AN OPTION...

Living caring lady, 45, blonde hair, 5ft4, average build, loves a laugh, football, going out, country trips, seeking friends and hopeful partner for loving companionship. Box 442334 **T**

CARING

Loving female, 52, blonde hair, blue eyes, no ties, likes theatre, cinema, music, eating in or out, travel, seeks male for friendship, possibly romance. Box 189918 **T**

IN MY SIGHTS

Lovely, curvaceous lady, 57y old, enjoys visual arts and travelling, WLTM a genuine male, 50-69 for friendship and possibly romance. Box 442503 **T**

ALL THIS AND MORE

Attractive female, 45, slim-medium build, 5ft5, brown eyes, brown hair, caring, loving, honest, seeking LTR with an honest caring male to enjoy life with. Box 439367 **T**

FANCY A DRINK?

Divorced female, 47, 5ft4, curvy, enjoys eating out, WLTM a nice and gentle male, non-smoker, 43-53, with a GSOH for a relationship. Box 442303 **T**

HAPPY DAYS

Happy go lucky lady, 44, 5'2", blue eyes/blonde, medium build enjoys cuddles, socialising, animals, seeks honest, trusting, affectionate male 40-50 GSOH to share happy times. Box 175443 **T**

HUNK SOUGHT

Mature, 48, blonde, medium build, likes 4x4s, the gym, quad-biking, a glass of wine, cinema, rugby/soccer/cricket. WLTM sincere youngish guy for friendship/companionship and who knows. Box 899117 **T**

LIFE IS FOR LIVING!

Attractive, outgoing single mum, 48, enjoys swimming, the outdoors and travelling, WLTM male to travel and enjoy life with. Take the plunge! Box 891011 **T**

TOGETHER, FOREVER?

Caring person with GSOH, 48, would like to share my life with someone nice, who enjoys romantic walks, meals and wants to find love. Box 899783 **T**

BE MY FRIEND & LOVER

Bubbly, caring lady, 47, divorced, with 2 teenagers, dark hair, medium build, into cooking, driving, love to talk, laugh and have fun, seeking a normal guy. Box 425952 **T**

LOTS OF LOVE TO GIVE

Bubbly, voluptuous, very warm-hearted, facile woman, 49, looking for that special someone to share cuddles, romantic evening in/out and possibly relationship. Box 914917 **T**

LOVING AND GENUINE

Female, early 60s, tall, slim, modern, young & vibrant & attractive, seeking a male, 56-64, for a loving relationship. Box 442445 **T**

THE GOLDEN YEARS

Blonde female 52y old, divorced, 5ft, enjoys 60s music, walks, meals and trips to the seaside, WLTM a male, 56-64, for a loving relationship. Box 442445 **T**

EVERTHING I DO

Living in 30y old, 5ft2, dark hair, blue eyes, pub, wine bars, places of interest, sports and reading, WLTM a female for friendship and romance. Box 889720 **T**

PURE AND SIMPLE

Kind, caring, 38y old, 5ft11, slim, NS, two boys (19 and 16), likes eating out, visiting London, weekends! Looking for kind, caring lady. Looks not important. Box 425308 **T**

IT'S WRITTEN IN THE STARS

Sincere, 36y old male, self-employed, seeks Miss Right, 30-40, for friendship/romance. Box 738594 **T**

R.U.4 MEE?

Down-to-earth, loyal guy, 36, looking for companionship, leading to a long-term relationship. Enjoys meals out, good company, conversation, cosy evenings in. Box 914917 **T**

H.I. LADIES

I'm 38, 5ft11, average build, like pubs, restaurants, cinema, quiet nights in with chocs and DVDs, seeking kind, happy female with GSOH, for honest relationship. Box 442056 **T**

TLC ON OFFER

Darren, 39, fun loving, genuine, 5ft8, medium build, average build, smoker, WLTM a female soulmate, 25-45, for a LTR, no time wasters please. Box 442438 **T**

WORKAHOLIC SEEKS COUNTRY GIRL

I'm 40, down to earth, reliable, honest, like keeping fit, going out, meals out, watching movies, seeking similar lady for lasting love & happiness. Box 889495 **T**

CRAZY, CRAZY NIGHTS

Attractive, medium-built female, 23, 5ft3, blue eyes, enjoys crazy nights out and cosy nights in. WLTM female, 25-30, for friendship, perhaps relationship. Brighton. Box 441718 **T**

CANDLELIGHT CUDDLES!

40-year-old gay woman, likes nice wine, candlelight, the sea, passionate people and places, muddy walks and cosy nights in. WLTM lady for friendship evenings out, maybe more. Recently quit smoking! E Sussex. Box 963530 **T**

SIMON SAYS...

Caring female dad, 41, 5ft1", average build, young-looking, WLTM lady for friendship evenings out, maybe more. Recently quit smoking! E Sussex. Box 963530 **T**

WHY WAIT?

Fun-loving male, 52, likes going out, playing golf, motor cycles, socialising, visiting new places, WLTM an interesting female. Box 427713 **T**

FULL STEAM AHEAD!

Rochester male, kind, genuine, 50yrs, likes steam railways, cooking, country walks, history, reading, looking for someone special! Box 429211 **T**

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YOUR TV REVIEW

BONEKICKERS
BBC One, 9pm, Tuesday
CHINESE FOOD MADE EASY
BBC Two, 8.30pm, Monday

■ BY TOM BETTS

I'M not sure the world is ready for high definition television, especially with the drivel that is on 85 per cent of the time.

Although that's not an official figure, may I add.

When the technology has moved on so much that what's on your screen is almost a better than reality (I swear real life doesn't look this sharp!) I somehow expected the quality of what appears on the magic box to move ever upward too.

But still, while the crystal-clear images flood into our rooms we still have to endure the likes of Snog, Marry, Avoid? and Titty Titty Bang Bang.

Take Bonekickers, the BBC's latest effort at intrigue and mystery.

It looked like a belter on the trailers, but is so bad it actually makes me want to go out and do some of those hobby things that people keep yammering on about.

Here is a show seemingly cobbled together behind the bike sheds by a bunch of sixth formers during school break.

The producers were clearly aiming at a cross between Spooks and CSI with a wee hint of Indiana Jones thrown in for good measure, yet it comes across more like Time Team meets The Bill.

It's in the middle of a six episode run and I'll bet my remote control there won't be a second.

Around 6.8 million of you joined me for the first episode, so at least I can find some solace in the fact that I'm not alone in my suffering, but a huge



TASTY: Ching-He Huang is cooking up quite a stir on BBC Two with Chinese Food Made Easy

share of that number had jumped ship by episode two.

If this is the best we have to look forward to this summer then could be time to say "balls to the credit crunch, I'm off on holiday!"

There is a new woman in my life, who I would dearly love to accompany on what I have christened the 2008 Bonekicker Avoidance Tour.

The name of the object of my affection is Ching-He Huang, beautiful, intelligent and able to whip up a mean egg foo yong.

Wok more could a man want?

I had promised myself I'd not waste any more time watching cookery shows (a strange addiction I have), especially as none of it ever translates to my own kitchen, but one look at Ching-He and that promise bit the dust faster than you could say year of the loser.

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YOUR WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

BY RUSSELL GRANT



AQUARIUS (Jan 21-Feb 19)

DOING a job all by yourself isn't realistic. Call on the help of your colleagues. Acting like you don't need anyone else will alienate you from the group. It's important to consider the needs of a business or romantic partner. Letting this person wait on you will be a welcome change of pace.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Aquarius** 09067-531762

TAURUS (Apr 21-May 20)

DON'T convince you know more about a subject than you really do. It's better to hire a professional than attempt a complicated job yourself. A good friend could take you on a short trip. The two of you are opposites in many ways, which makes for good traveling companions.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Taurus** 09067-531753

LEO (Jul 24-Aug 23)

Daydreaming could undermine your job performance. It's important to check your work before submitting it or you could miss some embarrassing mistakes. Your star power will be especially strong, making this a great time to go on job interviews, auditions and first dates.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Leo** 09067-531756

SCORPIO (Oct 24-Nov 22)

FOLLOWING the rules is overrated. Allow yourself a measure of freedom when tackling a big project. You could develop some exciting techniques by just playing around. You're about to assume a more public profile at work. People respond to your warmth and generosity.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Scorpio** 09067-531759

SAGITTARIUS (Nov 23-Dec 21)

PUTTING too much emphasis on material things is getting in the way of a close relationship. You can't put a price on love. Encourage somebody to take a chance. You're too adventurous to cling to security for very long. A strange living arrangement works well for you.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Sagittarius** 09067-531760

PISCES (Feb 19-Mar 20)

FORCING a friend to live up to an old promise will only torment them. Relax your standards and leave your pal free to have a good time. You may have to do more than your fair share of work, but it will be strangely gratifying. It feels good to have an outlet for your restless energy.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Pisces** 09067-531763

GEMINI (May 22-Jun 22)

YOU may think you've got more money than you actually have. Review your budget carefully before buying something extravagant. Urgent messages could come pouring in this week. Check your mobile regularly or you could miss an important call. A job will involve unusual duties.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Gemini** 09067-531754

VIRGO (Aug 24-Sep 22)

YOU may not realise what a friend really needs to thrive. If this person is intent on taking a risk, don't stand in their way. If you're not in a relationship, you could meet someone special at a party or social occasion. Keep your eyes open for an offbeat philanthropist.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Virgo** 09067-531757

CANCER (Jun 23-Jul 23)

PREOCCUPATION with your own needs could make you oblivious to those of other. Take care you don't forget an important date. Money will be more readily available than it has in the past few weeks. Someone could ask you to step in for an instructor who had to leave quite suddenly.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Cancer** 09067-531755

LIBRA (Sep 24-Oct 23)

TRYING to give orders to relatives will be as successful as herding a crowd of cats. It simply can't be done. Let everybody do their own thing for a change. It will save you lots of aggravation. Besides, you have better things to do with your time. You can't afford to let them down.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Libra** 09067-531758

CAPRICORN (Dec 22-Jan 20)

DON'T overanalyse a relationship. There are some gifts in life you just need to accept with open arms and a thankful heart. Your sex appeal is red hot.

You could meet someone special. You're especially drawn to quiet, nurturing types, but you may have to do all the running.

To find out more about what the stars have in store call Russell on **Capricorn** 09067-531761

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July 21	~Norton Grange, Isle of Wight	4	£224	£189pp
July 25	Littlecote House, Berkshire	3	£269	£239pp
July 28	Bodelwyddan Castle, North Wales	4	£304	£269pp
August 8	Alivaston Hall, Cheshire	3	£234	£199pp
August 11	Nidd Hall, North Yorkshire	4	£324	£279pp
August 11	Gunton Hall, Suffolk + 50p Bar on last night	4	£239	£199pp
August 18	Lakeside, Hayling Island + 50p Bar on last night	4	£219	£199pp
August 25	Gunton Hall, Suffolk + 50p Bar on last night	4	£239	£199pp
August 25	~Norton Grange, Isle of Wight + 50p Bar on last nt	4	£229	£199pp
August 25	Lakeside, Hayling Island + free lunches Tues-Thurs	4	£219	£199pp
August 25	Bodelwyddan Castle, North Wales	4	£309	£289pp
August 29	~Bembridge, Isle of Wight	3	£244	£199pp

*Norton Grange & Bembridge breaks include return car ferry

*Warner price taken from their 2008 brochure

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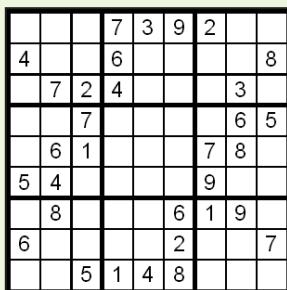
CROSSWORD & SUDOKU

No46

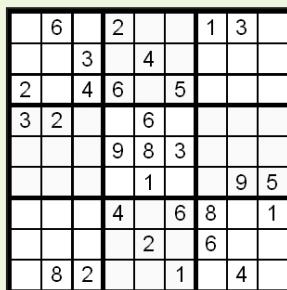
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Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

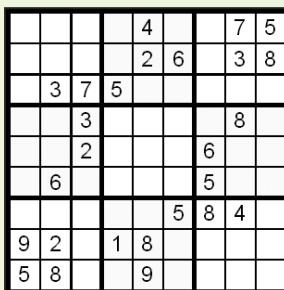
EASY



MEDIUM



HARD



CRYPTIC CLUES

ACROSS

1 What is carried in here may be documented (7-4)
9 A maxim that is unprincipled (6)

10 Spoil important-sounding tent (7)

12 Highfliers chewing raw rice (7)

14 Vainest sort who's most ingenuous (7)

15 Haggard mineowner (4,7)

16 For each of the shoppers included (3)

17 Born to one expecting inside (3)

19 Pointer on hand (5-6)

22 Yellow jeans I'm splashing (7)

23 Different layers on Sunday are not shining (7)

24 Young child is untruthful about deliberate understatement (7)

25 Rude fraction? (6)

26 Scholarly Scotsman found in RA (11)

DOWN

2 Small monkey had hat dodging rain (7)

3 Luminous atmospheric phenomena transforming our area (7)

4 Man hard on a novice (3)

5 Next crime could include me and machine with revolving drum (6,5)

6 Barns ie custom-built for one from Southern Europe (7)

7 Put up about one French female and start to perform in the band (4,2)

8 Character with journalists printed reading matter (11)

11 Two well-directed in rhyme (4,3,4)

13 We will be adorned wearing stylish clothes (4-7)

18 Hesitates at last character being substitute (6)

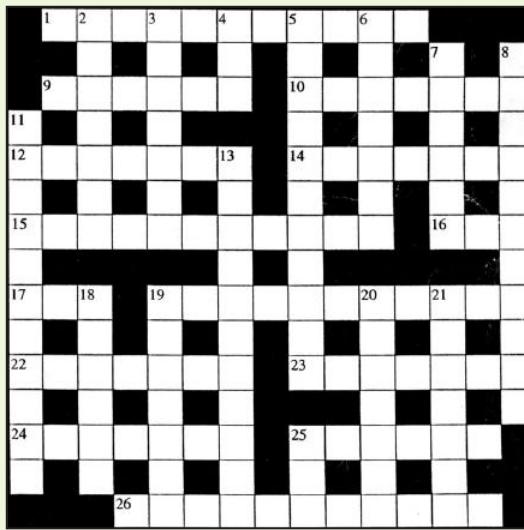
19 I had ten before end of August in charge, that's stupid (7)

20 Poem 99 is heavenly (7)

21 Most of bomb found on a West Indian island (7)

25 Six thousand having vigour (3)

SCRIBBLE HERE



QUICK CLUES

ACROSS

1 Quarantined (2,9)

9 Sea-cow (6)

10 Japanese ornament (7)

12 Spectrum (7)

14 Imprecise (7)

15 Furry animal (7,4)

16 Longing (3)

17 Auto (3)

19 Stun (11)

22 Specialised in a particular subject (7)

23 To which (7)

24 Mislead (7)

25 Pincers (6)

26 Dimension (11)

DOWN

2 Cephalopod molluscs (7)

3 Entertainment industry (7)

4 Limb (3)

5 Painful inflammation in arm (6,5)

6 Exhaust (7)

7 Nauseous (6)

8 Objective (11)

11 Play only partly funny (11)

13 Capriciousness (11)

18 Discard (6)

19 Stealthy (7)

20 Metallic element (Re) (7)

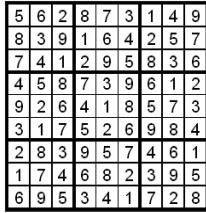
21 Bevan, former MP (7)

25 Rap (anag.) (3)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

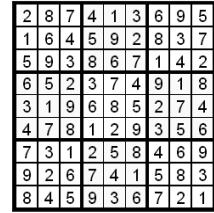
SUDOKU SOLUTIONS No45

EASY



MEDIUM

HARD



CRYPTIC SOLUTION No45

ACROSS: 1 Mixed grill 6 Scud 9 Album 10 Fact 11 Ambo 13 Inconsequential 14 Rebuttal 16 Midget 18 Prozac 19 Careless 22 Discount for cash 24 Ivan 25 Wild 26 Vroom 27 Gilt 28 Jolly Roger. DOWN: 1 Meatier 2 Xebec 3 Demonstrator 4 Riffelman 5 Lock-up 7 Commingle 8 Droplet 12 Engine-driver 15 Bookstall 17 Daffodil 18 Padding 20 Schemer 21 Indigo 23 Along.

QUICK SOLUTION No46

REHEATED 27 Almondine 28 Pfeffer 29 Fritter 30 Tiramisu 31 Way 32 Whetstone 33 Tumwater 34 Major 35 48 5 Lemons 36 24 Melon 37 Pheasant 38 27 Redge 39 11 Tiramisu 40 Shallow 41 Left 42 5 Lemons 43 6 Tumwater 44 Major 45 27 Whetstone 46 24 Melon 47 Pheasant 48 11 Tiramisu 49 5 Lemons 50 6 Tumwater 51 42 5 Lemons 52 27 Redge 53 11 Tiramisu 54 5 Lemons 55 6 Tumwater 56 41 5 Lemons 57 27 Redge 58 11 Tiramisu 59 5 Lemons 60 6 Tumwater 61 42 5 Lemons 62 27 Redge 63 11 Tiramisu 64 5 Lemons 65 6 Tumwater 66 41 5 Lemons 67 27 Redge 68 11 Tiramisu 69 5 Lemons 70 6 Tumwater 71 42 5 Lemons 72 27 Redge 73 11 Tiramisu 74 5 Lemons 75 6 Tumwater 76 41 5 Lemons 77 27 Redge 78 11 Tiramisu 79 5 Lemons 80 6 Tumwater 81 42 5 Lemons 82 27 Redge 83 11 Tiramisu 84 5 Lemons 85 6 Tumwater 86 41 5 Lemons 87 27 Redge 88 11 Tiramisu 89 5 Lemons 90 6 Tumwater 91 42 5 Lemons 92 27 Redge 93 11 Tiramisu 94 5 Lemons 95 6 Tumwater 96 41 5 Lemons 97 27 Redge 98 11 Tiramisu 99 5 Lemons 100 6 Tumwater

Answers to all of this week's quizzes can be found on our website



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ON GENERAL RELEASE

WALL-E (U)



The creators of Toy Story return with a heartfelt and fun-packed comedy about a little robot who holds the key to saving planet Earth. Wall-E (Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-Class) discovers a new purpose in life when he meets a sleek search robot named Eve. Eve comes to realise that Wall-E has stumbled on the key to the planet's future, and races back to space to report her findings to the humans with Wall-E in hot pursuit.

MEET DAVE (PG)



Dave Ming Chang (Eddie Murphy), newly arrived in New York City, may be the ultimate fish out of water. There's something about him that's not quite right – for starters, he seems remarkably out of place and uncomfortable in his own body. And for good reason: 'Dave' is not a man at all, but a ship made in the image of its miniature-sized captain.

DONKEY PUNCH (18)



When three girls decide to go on holiday to Spain, they expect the usual holiday of sun, sand and lots of nights out on the town. But when three guys tell them they have a boat and the girls are welcome to go out for a day, things take a terrifying turn for the worse when one of the girls dies and it becomes a fight for survival.

No more action man

■ BY ELLIE GENOWER

WHEN Jackie Chan first heard about the fantastical concept of his new movie *The Forbidden Kingdom*, he certainly had his doubts.

"I would never make this kind of film," he says, smiling. "For me, these kinds of films are ridiculous. It doesn't make sense. But the American audience, I think, is interested. So every time I make an American film, I trust the American writer and the American director."

The film sees New York young kung fu fan Jason Tripitikas (Michael Angarano) magically thrust into ancient China where he befriends wise kung fu master Lu Yan (Jackie Chan) and a warrior played by Jet Li. They team up to free the Monkey King, who has been imprisoned by the powerful Jade War Lord.

Jackie, who shot much of the movie on location in China, says: "This is just like a fantasy – a fairytale, but I made this movie because I know American culture and American people like it."

Despite Chan's initial reservations, he couldn't resist the chance to work with another famous Chinese movie fighter – Jet Li – either.

After years of trying to team up on film, Lee had almost given up on the idea of working with him by the time *Forbidden Kingdom* came along.

"I have always hoped to make movies with some people I really admire, like Dustin Hoffman and Robert De Niro, before I retire from this business," he says.

"Jet Li is someone whom I have wanted to work for more than ten years. Every time I see Jet we say, 'Let's do it!' This time it happened



GETTING HARDER: Jackie Chan says he wants to be a serious actor before he retires because Casey [Silver] the producer was in the middle. Every

nating fight scenes with Li felt comfortable.

"After the first cut, the director comes up and says 'Can you guys slow down?'" Lee says with a laugh.

"I want to show off quick and he wants to show off quick, but then we slowed down. It was fun. Fighting with him is very comfortable. I've fought so many different actors who just don't know

how to fight. It makes you hurt and it doesn't look good. And I think because I'm good, it makes him comfortable!"

However, Li is, at 45, almost ten years younger than Chan at 54. As the energetic and animated star grows older, it inevitably becomes harder to perform the big kung-fu stunts, he did so effortlessly on film at a younger age.

Hence one of the reasons Chan is trying to make the transition from kung fu movie star to serious actor. "I think for the last six or five years, I've changed my style," he says, earnestly. "Right after the *Forbidden Kingdom*, I finished a movie called *The Shinjuku Incident*. It's maybe one per cent action. Heavy drama. The next one will be big action, then maybe a love story."

"I want to change. I want to be a real actor and not just an action star. An action star's film life is very short. Jackie Chan is a myth and I'm in survival right now."

"It's been more than 30 years, but how much longer can I keep fighting? This is why I have to change, change, change. I'm not like I used to be – I'm tired."

THE FORBIDDEN KINGDOM
Certificate 12A

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Fri - 8.50pm, Sat - 6.20pm, Sun - 8.50pm
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PROPERTY NEWS

Mortgage deals better with Abbey

A NEW revised fixed rate mortgage deal has been launched by the Abbey.

Those looking to take out mortgages are able to obtain two and three year fixed rates at up to 0.15 per cent less than previously offered.

Abbey's move is the latest in a series of recent changes by leaders in the market as a response to a fall in inter-bank lending costs.

Another company to cut back on rates recently was Woolwich which decreased fixed rates in some cases by up to 0.3 per cent.

Such developments within the property industry have been viewed as a sign that the cost of mortgages is on a small down turn despite the lack of movement in interest rates.

These have been held by the Bank of England in recent moves to stabilise the property market.

Recently forecasters working for the Royal Bank of Scotland predicted that the base rate will remain at five per cent for the rest of this year, with the possibility of movement in the first quarter of next year.

Agents confident of market turnaround

THE majority of estate agents across the UK are optimistic that house prices will be rising and the market buoyant a year from now.

A survey of the industry conducted by Abbey said that 61 per cent of respondents were confident the downturn would be over in the next 12 months.

And half of those contacted said they expected the time span to be just half that.

Abbey's head of mortgages Phil Cliff said: "Estate agents and homeowners believe that despite current movements in house prices we are unlikely to experience a really prolonged fall."

Predictions such as these help to stabilise a volatile market and increase confidence for both investors and sellers.

They are helped by banks lowering mortgage rates – which has taken place in some sectors of the business in the past few weeks.

In the latest figures available in the market June saw a two per cent fall in house prices – a decrease of the 2.5 per cent recorded for May.



CLEANING UP: The devastation caused by flooding to thousands of properties in recent years could get worse with predictions of more extreme weather conditions

Flood defence agreed

Insurance and long-term strategies will help protect owners

THE insurance industry and the Government have reached an agreement to ensure householders are able to obtain protection against flooding.

Both bodies have vowed to team up in a bid to protect properties at risk in a complementary way.

In recent years the county has seen serious flooding, particularly along the course of the River Medway.

Fears over global warming have also added to improved sea defences along Romney Marsh.

Other low-lying areas, such as Swale and other areas along the Thames Estuary, as well as Thanet, have also been cited as being at risk from waters.

According to insurers they will assess some

■ BY NICK AMES

properties at risk and the Government has promised to do more to protect housing from destructive waters.

Under the new agreement, insurers will guarantee to provide protection to any property deemed to have a risk of less than one in 75 from flood.

In return, the Government has committed itself to a long-term 25-year strategy to improve flood defences across the UK.

Environment Minister Phil Woolas said: "The insurance companies very reasonably said that it is necessary to have a long-term strategy – 25 years is the figure that we are going ahead with. We are looking at coastal flooding as well as river flooding and surface water flooding to ensure that the increased

investment that we have – and we have increased investment in flood defences quite substantially in this country – is sustained in the long term."

Mr Woolas said the Environment Agency should make use of new powers to block proposed developments at risk of flood and explained insurers were ready to offer improved premiums to householders who protect their homes against the risks.

He added: "What has changed is the climate change predictions the scientists are giving us; that the extreme weather conditions are going to increase in the decades to come. That requires a long-term strategy."

"It is something we have been negotiating with the insurance industry in some detail. They, quite understandably, want to have assurances that homes are protected and we, quite understandably, want to do that in any event."

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KENNINGTON OI0 £225,000

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KENNINGTON ASKING PRICE £225,000

No Chain. Detached house with double garage with entrance hall, ground floor cloakroom, lounge/diner, kitchen, four double bedrooms & bathroom. GCH, DG, double driveway with parking for 4/5 cars. **Ashford Office 01233 624561**



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WILLESBOROUGH OI0 £299,995

No chain period detached house. Study, lounge/diner, kitchen/breakfast room, conservatory, downstairs WC, basement room, 4 beds, master with en suite, family bathroom. Parking for 2, garden. **Ashford Office 01233 624561**



SINGLETON £310,000

Five bedroom detached townhouse. Three reception rooms, kitchen, utility, ground floor cloakroom, two bedrooms with en suite, also master with dressing room. Off road parking for 2/3 cars. **Ashford Office 01233 624561**



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Detached period village property. Approx 1 acre with several outbuildings. Entrance hall, kitchen, lounge and dining room, 3 beds & box room. Double garage, log storage & additional outbuilding. **Ashford Office 01233 624561**



KENNINGTON OI0 £420,000

Rarely available period detached house. Lounge, dining room, drawing room, kitchen, GF cloakroom, 3 double beds, office, bathroom plus 2 attic rooms. Rear garden, driveway parking & double garage. **Ashford Office 01233 624561**



WILLESBOROUGH LEES £450,000

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Ashford OIEO £185,000

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Ashford OIEO £155,000

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KENNINGTON



£209,950

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GODINTON PARK



£209,995 Freehold

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KENNINGTON



OIEO £230,000

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MERSHAM



£274,950 Freehold

Detached bungalow. Lounge, kitchen and conservatory with 2 bedrooms and bathroom. Additional benefits include rear garden, garage and driveway.



KENNINGTON



£269,950 Freehold

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MOTORS NEWS



Car show turned on by the power of electricity

DOORS open at the British International Motor Show in London today – the greenest show ever.

The event at the Excel centre runs until August 3 and includes 23 global debuts for new models.

But eco-friendly models like the all-electric zero-emission TH!NK city car (above) are also grabbing the limelight: the TH!NK offers a top speed of 65mph, range of 126 miles on a full charge, costs just £100 in electricity to cover 10,000 miles, needs no road tax and is 95 per cent recyclable.



Beamer is going more eco-friendly than ever

BMW's newly-revised 3-Series saloon, coupé, estate and convertible range is not only one of Britain's best-sellers in its class, but also one of the most eco.

Though you will be lucky to spot the makeover cosmetics, the line-up now boasts a greener engine range as well as 'EfficientDynamics' technology introduced previously to cut fuel waste and emissions.

Indeed, emissions are now so low on the economical 318d and top selling 320d diesel models that they almost qualify for the lowest £35/year road tax bracket.



Mitsubishi launch 'mini miser' special edition

ALREADY one of the best superminis for space, durability and value, the Mitsubishi Colt has a new Attivo special edition specifically for motorists looking to downsize from a bigger car.

It comes with sporty alloys and metallic paint plus competitive finance, but a frugal (51.4 mpg combined mode) yet pokey 74bhp 1.1-litre engine that partially justifies its 'Attivo' tag – it means 'energetic' and 'lively' in Italian.

The Attivo is priced at £7,999 for the three-door and £8,499 for the five-door.



THE BEST OF BOTH WORLDS: Volkswagen has hedged its bets by launching two Tiguan: an everyday model and the harder 'Escape' intended for genuine off-roading

Slick Tiguan answering a need for greener 4x4s

OVERALL demand for 4x4s might be in the muck, but some are still squeaky clean.

The VW Tiguan is one that ticks most boxes for a modern-day SUV (sports utility vehicle): compact footprint, top-notch engines, excellent on-road ability and decent off-road powers too.

And VW hedged its bets by launching two Tiguan: an everyday model and the 'Escape' intended to allow owners to do just that.

It puts most other compact 'soft-rovers' in their place when the going gets tough, with a shorter front overhang – that improves the styling in my opinion – radiator and sump guards, plus a standard-fit 'off-road' mode that optimises hill descent control and other driver/mechanical aids.

But 'long nose' rather than Escape version claim 95 per cent of Tiguan sales and usually in 2.0-litre diesel mid-range SE trim (£21,770 for 138bhp version) as tested here, though high diesel fuel prices make a strong case for the so-called 'twin charger' Tiguan, featuring a lightweight 148bhp 1.4-litre petrol engine with supercharger and turbocharger, allowing decent economy plus diesel style pulling power

ROAD TEST VW TIGUAN

■ BY STEVE LOADER

STAR QUALITY

Driving appeal	★★★★★
Image	★★★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★★★
Reliability	★★★★★
Green rating	★★★★★

and low emissions. It certainly makes the Tiguan feel nimble and knocks around £1,000 off prices for diesel equivalents.

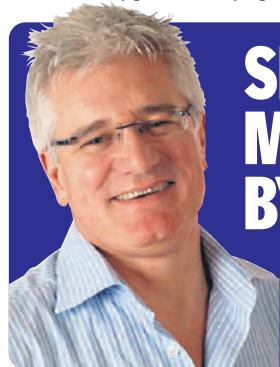
Nevertheless, the 2.0-litre diesel is the consummate all-rounder: smooth, refined and powerful.

The Tiguan interior is typical VW, mixing robust quality, good ergonomics and stowage and fine seating. Space engineering is excellent so, despite being roughly the same size as key competitors, the car feels more spacious and has a decent boot plus lift-up tailgate and room for a spare wheel.

The car has a maximum five-star rating for occupant protection by Euro NCAP, plus four stars for child safety and two stars for pedestrian protection.

The Tiguan is also one of the best 'drives' in class. The ride is firmish, but the chassis ensures that a relatively high vehicle corners with a flat stance. With the low down pulling power of the test car's 2.0-litre diesel, the Tiguan can be pushed hard on a challenging road, aided by a precise six-speed gearbox allowing steady and quiet motorway cruising too.

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■ BY STEVE LOADER

FORGIVE a whiff of smugness at your local Skoda dealer this week when the all-new Superb model arrives.

For this smart new model says a final goodbye to an era that lingered overlong – Skoda jokes.

Mickey-taking began in the late 1980s when the Czech brand's rear-engine Estelle began to look hopelessly obsolete against modern Western models such as the VW Golf and Ford Escort.

A favourite jibe was "How do you double the value of a Skoda? Fill the tank."

Skodas were cheap, spacious and rugged and extra traction gained from pairing engine and driving wheels at the back suited poor quality roads in the old Soviet empire, but the Estelle and its optimistically named Rapid sister delivered questionable handling on modern faster roads in the UK – as I found during a wet test drive in the late 1980s.

Nevertheless, reliability and a successful rally heritage inspired loyalty amongst a small band of owners and dealers such as Adamsons at Walmer, Deal, which is now reaping the rewards of sticking with the brand for some 30 years through thick and thin.

The thin was the Estelle. Proprietor Robbie Adamson admitted: "It had its funny ways, but it cost just £2,399 and came with two-and-a-half years' warranty – quite a deal for those days."

"Skoda is so different now though, since the takeover by VW. The little Fabia is our best-seller by far and the environmentally-friendly Greenline version is creating a lot of interest, while the Octavia is a fabulous option for business users."

But he added tomorrow's unveiling of the luxurious yet still affordable new Superb would complete the brand's transformation.

Prices start from £15,490 and threaten cars like the Ford Mondeo, forthcoming Vauxhall Insignia and even the German executive marques.

Unlike the outgoing car, a stretched and 'warmed over' VW Passat, the new car is a

Feeling smug at Skoda – but no jokes please



TEAM: Adamsons has a long-established commitment to Skoda says proprietor Robbie Adamson (fourth from left)

completely new model with dual-purpose load space access via a conventional bootlid that can also become a hatchback at the touch of a button.

Mr Adamson said it could satisfy those who liked hatchbacks for their ability to cope with big loads and those who preferred the 'executive' look of a booted saloon.



EVOLVING: Rear engine Estelle (above) spawned Skoda jokes ...but the all-new Superb (below) will end them once and for all



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Based on mileage of	12,000 per year	12,000 per year
Average fuel economy Imperial Combined (Metric Combined)	36 mpg (7.8L/100km)	62.8 mpg (4.5L/100km)
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Example taken from VCA, an executive agency of the Department of Transport for a vehicle average between all vehicles (Euro III & Euro IV) in the May 2004 publication. Average fuel cost used: £6.08 per gallon diesel (£1.339 per litre diesel) and £5.45 per gallon petrol (£1.199 per litre petrol) taken from Total Garage, Old Thanet Way, Cheshfield, 15 July 2008.

TAX BUSTERS

	PRICE	ANNUAL SAVING
2005 (55) FOCUS 1.6 115PS ZETEC CLIMATE 5 DOOR Moondust Silver, Air Conditioning, 20,000 miles	£26,995	£407
2007 (57) FIESTA 1.4 STYLE CLIMATE 5 DOOR Moondust Silver, Air Conditioning, Heated Front Screen, 1 Owner, 12,000 miles	£27,295	£472
2007 (57) FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC CLIMATE 5 DOOR Tonic Metallic, Allow Wheels, Fuel Computer, 1 Owner, 8,500 miles	£27,995	£472
2007 (57) FIESTA 1.4TDCI ZETEC CLIMATE 5 DOOR Moondust Silver, Air Conditioning, Fuel Computer, 1 Owner, 12,000 miles	£28,890	£1,039
2006 (56) FIESTA 1.4TDCI ZETEC CLIMATE 3 DOOR Panther Black, Air Conditioning, 1 Owner, 31,000 miles	£28,995	£1,039
2007 (07) FIESTA 1.4 ZETEC CLIMATE 5 DOOR Moondust Silver, Air Conditioning, Auto Lights/Wipers, Power Folding Mirrors, 1 Owner, 16,000 miles	£27,995	£472
2007 (57) FOCUS 2.0TDCI TITANIUM 5 DOOR Ocean Blue, Aircon, Auto lights/Wipers, Privacy Glass, 1 Owner, 5,000 miles	£14,995	£697
2007 (07) S-MAX 2.0TDCI TITANIUM 7 SEATER Stardust Silver, Cruise Control, 1 Owner, 13,000 miles	£16,740	£412
2007 (57) S-MAX 2.0TDCI ZETEC 7 SEATER Stardust Silver, DVD Navigation, Convers+, 1 Owner, 12,000 miles	£17,405	£412
2007 (07) S-MAX 2.0TDCI ZETEC 7 SEATER Ink Blue, Air Conditioning, Climate Control, 1 Owner, 14,000 miles	£14,995	£412
2007 (07) S-MAX 2.0TDCI TITANIUM 7 SEATER Panther Black, 18" Alloy Wheels, Partial Leather, 1 Owner, 13,000 miles	£17,795	£412
2007 (07) GALAXY 1.8TDCI ZETEC 7 SEATER Tonic Metallic, Climate Control, 1 Owner, 12,000 miles	£14,990	£438

*Annual Saving is calculated against the average 2004 vehicle as per our example.
Figures are taken from official fuel consumption combined figures and current VED tables.

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2007 (07) FIESTA 2.0 ST 3 DOOR Performance Blue, Technology Pack, Privacy Glass, Side Stripes, 1 Owner, 10,000 miles	£28,995
2007 (07) FIESTA 2.0 ST 3 DOOR Performance Blue, 1 Owner, 6,000 miles	£28,995
2007 (07) FOCUS 2.5 ST-3 5 DOOR Performance Blue, Climate Control, Global Closing, Visibility Pack, Park Assist, 11,000 miles	£15,405
2007 (07) FOCUS 2.5 ST-3 3DOOR Panther Black, Ebony Recaro Leather Trim, 1 Owner, 12,000 miles	£14,995
2004 (04) STREETKA 1.6 LUXURY CONVERTIBLE Storm Metallic, Black Leather, Air Conditioning, 22,000 miles	£5,995
2005 (05) FIESTA 1.6 GHIA 5 DOOR Tonic, Aircon, CD Player, 20,000 miles	£8,395
2006 (06) FOCUS 1.6 100PS GHIA 5 DOOR Panther Black, Leather Trim, Air Conditioning, 1 Owner, 25,000 miles	£7,995
2005 (05) FOCUS 2.0 16V TITANIUM DVD NAV 5 DOOR Sea Grey, Air Conditioning, DVD Sat Nav, 37,000 miles	£8,995
2006 (06) MONDEO 2.0 16V GHIA 5 DOOR Panther Black, Climate Control, Cruise Control, 12,500 miles	£7,995
2008 (07) FOCUS 1.6 115PS ZETEC CLIMATE 5 DOOR Panther Black, Air Conditioning, 1 Owner, 12,000 Miles	£8,995
2005 (05) FOCUS GHIA 1.6 AUTOMATIC 5 DOOR Tonic, Air Conditioning, Cruise Control, 1 Owner, 45,000 miles	£8,990
2005 (05) MONDEO 2.0 16V LX AUTOMATIC 5 DOOR Honour Green Metallic, Air Conditioning, Cruise Control, 26,000 miles	£5,995
2007 (07) GALAXY 2.0TDCI GHIA 7 SEATER White Grape, Climate Control, 1 Owner, 13,000 miles	£16,405
2007 (07) GALAXY 2.0TDCI GHIA X PACK 7 SEATER Ink Blue, Black Leather, Panorama Roof, 1 Owner, 14,000 miles	£18,405
2007 (07) MONDEO 2.5 PETROL TURBO DVD NAV TITANIUM X 4 DOOR Panther Black, DVD Navigation, Alcantara Leather, 1 Owner, 12,000 miles	£16,995

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Joining our Tutorial Development team in this newly created post, you will ensure that students who require additional help are fully supported throughout their time at the College. You will achieve this by planning and delivering a full programme of tutorials focusing on functional skills. Every Child Matters themes, innovation and personal effectiveness.

It represents an excellent opportunity to gain first-hand experience of tutoring while pursuing a professional teaching qualification. To be considered, you must have a track record of working with young learners aged 14-19, ideally in a Further Education environment. A fluent communicator, you should also be keen to learn and develop your skills.

All posts will require a Criminal Record Bureau Enhanced Disclosure Certificate.

The benefits in joining us are immense: generous annual leave; flexible working benefits; full support including an on-site nursery; final salary pension; private health plan; Health & Fitness suite and more.

For further details, a job description and an application form, please contact the HR department on 01732 376511 or email hr-dept@wkc.ac.uk

Closing date: 12 noon, 31 July 2008.



Brook Street • Tonbridge • Kent TN9 2PW



Listening, Learning, Leading





Network Manager

Starting salary £35,370, with progression through contribution related pay to £40,705 per annum
Tunbridge Wells, across Broadwater Children's Centre and St Paul's Children's Centre

In the context of promoting the Government's Early Years Agenda, Every Child Matters and The Children's Plan, Ashford local Children's Services Partnership offers an exciting opportunity across Ashford for a range of skilled, creative and committed people to join in the development of Children's Centres and Programmes to provide a comprehensive range of services for children under 5 and their families in a friendly environment. Children's Centres are being developed across Kent as part of the Government's commitment to provide the best start in life for every child, support for parents, good quality childcare and safer, stronger communities.

This post will involve managing teams of staff developing a range of projects and services, which will implement the principles and core offer to be delivered within the Children's Centre. You will need to work alongside staff from a range of backgrounds and professions and lead effective multi-agency working. Experience of working within local communities is vital, as local children and families are key partners in the development of their Children's Centre.

You will have a degree or equivalent professional qualification in health, social work, education, community work or a similar field. Experience of working with children, families and communities as well as project management is essential. Team management and good interpersonal and communication skills is also a must for this exciting role. Owing to the sensitive nature of the work, an ability to remain confidential at all times is essential. Ref: CFE/08/0321.

Closing date: Midday, 30th July 2008.

Kent Safe Schools is widely recognised as a successful countywide organisation, highly skilled in developing peer-led approaches to tackling social issues and improving outcomes for children and young people across Kent.

Kent Restorative Justice Co-ordinator

Starting salary £29,920, with progression through contribution related pay to £35,370 per annum
Fixed term until 31st March 2010 and is dependent on continued funding Countywide - base negotiable

We are currently seeking an individual with the skills necessary to lead on the successful implementation of the Restorative Practice schools accreditation scheme. To achieve this it will be necessary to forge excellent working relationships with headteachers and other key partners to develop effective training, guidance, resources and support for schools and the wider community.

The ability to work collaboratively to influence change within the school and wider environment is essential, as is an extensive knowledge and experience of Restorative Practices.

You will have a professional qualification in a relevant field and experience or further professional development relating to Restorative Approaches. This will include an understanding of relevant legislation, guidance, key issues and models/approaches for implementing Restorative Practices within schools and settings. Excellent communication skills and the ability to collate, analyse and interpret data, in order to improve service delivery and outcomes, is essential. Ref: CFE/08/0331

Closing date: Midday, 12th August 2008.

Kent Safe Schools Project Officer

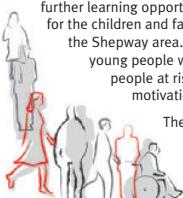
Starting salary £22,825, with progression through contribution related pay to £26,159 pro rata
30 hours per week - initially funded for 12 months from appointment - Secondment will be considered
Shepway, Folkestone

We are seeking an experienced, dedicated person to take forward this new and exciting role within the educational environment.

The role will be based within the Causeway Team in Folkestone and will involve working with primary school aged children to establish and support Kent Safe Schools and Causeway projects in schools and the wider community. The aim of the project is to reduce exclusions, improve access to further learning opportunities and provide alternative and positive solutions for the children and families that are supported by the Causeway team within the Shepway area. You will work with agencies, schools, parents and young people with the intention of improving outcomes for young people at risk of disaffection and/or exclusion through mentoring, motivational activities and support to parents and schools.

The post will be employed by Kent Safe Schools but will have access to all relevant organisations and agencies. Ref: CFE/08/0332

Closing date: Midday, 12th August 2008.



A great place to work.
 Our services aren't the same,
 so neither are our people.

Anti-Bullying Case Worker

Starting salary £22,825, with progression through contribution related pay to £26,159 per annum
Term-time only, initially funded for 12 months

Working closely with parents/carers, other professionals and schools where open dialogue has become difficult with a view to resolving bullying issues, you will offer support to young people to reduce incidents of bullying which will involve working one-to-one and/or in small groups. The work will also involve going into the schools to participate in reintegration, follow-up and preventative activities.

You will be full of ideas and enjoy using your initiative, joining our dedicated and highly effective staff team.

To succeed, you will work together with a wide range of agencies and service providers to ensure the needs of the parents and young people are met. So if you have the experience and commitment to working with young people we would love to hear from you. Ref: CFE/08/0330

Closing date: Midday, 12th August 2008.

Invicta House, Maidstone

Consumer Direct Advisors

Starting salary £15,826, with progression through contribution related pay to £16,627 per annum

The service, hosted by Kent County Council and funded by the Office of Fair Trading, is delivered from our state-of-the-art Contact Centre in central Maidstone.

Offering consumers across the South East of England telephone-based advice on their rights and guidance on resolving consumer problems, you will be liaising with Trading Standards professionals and other agencies such as the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Your professional telephone manner and excellent written and verbal communication skills will be matched by an ability to analyse the circumstances around the complaint and offer the appropriate course of action to the consumer in an accurate and easily understandable manner.

The busy nature of this service requires you to balance the need to provide appropriate advice whilst maintaining an awareness of call handling targets. You'll be PC literate and combine proven competence in a customer-focused role with a positive attitude and excellent team-working skills. Although some kind of legal experience would be helpful, you will be provided with in-depth training.

Working hours are subject to a shift pattern that will include some weekend work. Ref: CMY/08/0176

Contact Centre Agents

Starting salary £13,959 (+ 5% shift allowance), with progression through contribution related pay to £15,826 per annum

To support our continued success we are looking for people with a positive, flexible attitude and excellent communication skills to join the friendly team in our state-of-the-art Contact Centre.

Everything we do is about providing the most customer-focused, individually tailored service we can. The diversity of the calls we receive means that each call is unique and, therefore, requires a unique response.

If you'd like to start using your customer service skills in a role that challenges you and really makes a difference, we'd like to hear from you!

Dealing with calls from the public, you'll provide advice, interpret queries and re-route calls appropriately.

Your professional telephone manner and excellent written and verbal communication skills will be matched by a real service ethic and an ability to deal with a challenging variety of calls.

You'll be handling everything from registering a birth or a death to enrolling a caller on an Adult Education class or directing calls from some of the more vulnerable people living in Kent. Together with demonstrated competence in a customer-focused role and a positive attitude and excellent team-working skills, you'll also need to be PC literate.

In return for your skills, you'll benefit from a competitive starting salary, excellent development opportunities and a role that will continue to challenge you.

To find out more about Contact Kent, attend our Open Evening at Invicta House from 5pm - 7pm on Tuesday 29th July. To confirm your attendance or for further details, call Pat Croucher on 01622 221406, 9am - 5pm, Monday - Friday.

Working hours for these roles are subject to a rotating shift pattern which will include some weekend and bank holiday work. Ref: CMY/08/0177

Closing date: Midday, 13th August 2008.

These posts are subject to an Enhanced Disclosure Application to the Criminal Records Bureau.

To apply, visit www.kent.gov.uk/jobs Alternatively, please email recruitment.line@kent.gov.uk or call 0845 8247 904. Please quote the relevant reference number.



www.kent.gov.uk/jobs

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

KOS MEDIA (PUBLISHING) LTD

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. Advertisements will be accepted only on the express condition that the advertiser warrants that the advertisement does not in any way contravene any existing legislation and in particular the Trade and Description Act 1968 and the Consumer Credit Act 1974.

2. It is the responsibility of all advertisers to ensure that all advertising meets all forms of government legislation and KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (the "media owner") takes no responsibility for liability in errors and omissions to the content of our media.

3. All rates quoted are subject to VAT at the rate currently in force at the time the advertisement appears.

4. All rates quoted in the annual advertising agreement will be rate protected for 12 months from the date of publication under the agreed agreement.

5. Any unsuitable material posted on any website belonging to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the advertiser or any third party will be removed or refused. All passwords and security supplied to the advertiser by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in relation to the use of the posting of material via the media owner's online administration system will remain the responsibility of the advertiser. The advertiser indemnifies KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd against any damages as a result of misuse of these privileges by either the advertiser or any third party given password privileges by the advertiser.

6. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to change passwords intermittently to ensure the overall and ongoing security of its websites within the public domain.

7. Copyright and licenses for voice-overs, music and other material for advertising purposes may be obtained by the advertiser directly from the media owner or from a third party supplier. All rights in any material used in an advertisement shall remain with the media owner or the original copyright holder unless otherwise agreed in writing between the media owner and the advertiser.

8. Where shrinkage of an advertisement occurs for whatever reason, the advertisement will be charged to the nearest full centimetre where it relates to the media owner's printed publications. This will NOT apply to full-page advertisements where the shrinkage is less than 10%.

9. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to omit or refuse any advertisement/web content without notice or explanation. In these terms the word "advertiser" shall be construed to include any person or organisation placing an advertisement on behalf of another.

10. A guarantee of insertion cannot be given and the media owner shall not be liable for any failure to publish any advertisement by any date specified within your marketing contract. In no case shall the total liability of the media owner for any error or omission exceed the price charged by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd.

11. No liability is accepted for any loss or damage alleged to have arisen through delay in forwarding replies to Box numbers, however caused, nor for the loss or damage to any artwork supplied.

12. Details for any error or inaccuracy in your media messages with KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be made in writing to the accounts department within 10 days of publishing.

13. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd accepts no responsibility for any errors or omissions made on their websites by the advertiser.

14. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd has the right to cancel the advertiser's annual membership without notice should the advertiser deliberately publish out of date material or any material that is misleading, false or inaccurate. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd will seek to recover in full, all outstanding monies in respect of the signed annual membership as a result of the advertiser's negligence in this regard and reserve the right to claim damages for any potential vexatious action via the advertiser.

15. Advertisers are requested to check their advertisements after the first insertion. The media owner will not be responsible for any errors on subsequent insertions, which have not been advised to them in writing.

16. A minimum of one month's notice must be given in writing for any cancellation of the signed annual advertiser's agreement. Upon cancellation, all discounts from KOS Media's standard effective media advertising rate card (July 2007-June 2008) will be removed. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge the standard media rates in effect (effective July 2007-June 2008) and will reflect the standard length of commitment defined by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser. Advertisers will bear the cost of any changes made to the signed annual membership. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. The advertiser will not choose other voice-overs or non-copyright, free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the PRS rights should be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in the KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission to make any changes to the TV commercial with pictures taken from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accept and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of the advertisement. Any cost or charges required to complete the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.

17. The advertiser must agree to the date and time of filming of the TV advertising commercial supplied by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd within the advertiser's agreement. (Platinum, Gold, Silver standard of commercial). Should, for any reason, the advertiser not be available at the agreed time without giving sufficient notice (at least 45 hours), KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd reserves the right to charge for any further production to the standard published rates should the advertiser fail to use KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will accept and agree that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd other than the standard media rates in effect (effective July 2007-June 2008) and will reflect the standard length of commitment defined by the advertiser's written cancellation. Any surcharges, refunds or costs in relation to the production of the advertiser's TV commercial for the commitment set out within the advertiser's agreement will be met in full by the advertiser. Advertisers will bear the cost of any changes made to the signed annual membership. KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's production services to complete its TV commercial or photographic imagery included in the advertiser's agreement. The advertiser will approve and accept that there are only two choices of voice-over and music offered by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd. The advertiser will not choose other voice-overs or non-copyright, free music it is the responsibility of the advertiser to pay the PRS rights should they be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the PRS rights should be required to do so. Any changes to or failure to approve the TV production by the deadlines agreed between both parties will result in the KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd being given permission to make any changes to the TV commercial with pictures taken from a choice of photography supplied by the media owner until the advertiser can supply a TV commercial produced at their own cost and risk outside of this agreement. The advertiser also accept and agrees that this action would not reduce the value or cost of the advertisement. Any cost or charges required to complete the TV commercial throughout the advertiser's agreement will be borne by the advertiser outside of this agreement.

18. Each advertiser accepts that their ranking and position within KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be equal to those within their category (Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze, etc) other than they will be ranked based on the search engine criteria of optimisation within their level (Platinum, Gold, Silver or Bronze).

19. Any delivery claims made by an advertiser or discount vouchers published within the print or online media of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd and any action as a result of the media owner or otherwise is the sole responsibility of the advertiser. Any claims resulting from the use of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd's search engine will be the responsibility of the media owner.

20. All credit accounts due for payment shall be notified to the Advertiser by the 30th day following the date of the invoice, time to be of the essence. All sums due to KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd or RBS Factoring shall be paid in full, and the Advertiser shall have no right of set off in any circumstances.

b. In the event that payment is not received by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd by the due date, the media owner reserves the right to charge interest on all overdue balances calculated on a daily basis at the rate of two per cent above the minimum lending rate of National Westminster Bank Plc from time to time in force.

d. Notwithstanding the terms of this contract, any amounts due to the media owner by the end of the Advertising period, or the settling of KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd (for whatever reason), the whole amount of monies due from the Advertiser to the date of cessation shall fall due for immediate payment.

e. The Advertiser will be liable for all costs incurred by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in the recovery of debts not paid by the due date.

f. Payment may be made by cheque, credit transfer, direct debit, cash and any major credit card.

21. Any agreement which KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd may have agreed with the Advertiser shall be forfeited in the event of failure by the Advertiser to complete the contract or to meet the above credit terms.

22. Advertising Agency commission will be allowed to those advertisers recognised by the Newspaper Society, but shall not exceed ten per cent and will be subject to the terms of that recognition. This commission will not be allowed if the Advertising Agency fails to meet the terms of that recognition.

23. The Advertiser agrees to pay certain categories as laid down by KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd must be prepaid.

24. The Advertiser agrees to indemnify KOS Media (Publishing) Ltd in respect of all costs, damages or other charges wholly or partially by the media owners or any of the companies within the KOS Media Group as the result of legal action or threatened legal action or threatened legal action arising from the publication of any advertisement and/or its cancellation.

25. An order for an advertisement shall amount to acceptance of these terms and conditions, and any condition placed on an order by an Advertiser shall be null and void in so far as it conflicts with these.

26. Copyright in advertisements produced wholly or partially by the media owners or any of the media owner's consent.

All terms and conditions stated above are in place to protect the advertiser, the media owner and the communities they serve within the public domain as well as the beneficial rights of individuals and organisations. KOS Media will endeavour to always act reasonably in applying its terms and conditions.

Effective from March 2008

Apple Barn, Hythe Road, Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SR
 Tel 01303 817040 Fax 01303 817004
 Email: info@kosmedia.co.uk



**KOS
MEDIA**
Award winning publications
www.kentnews.co.uk

To advertise in this section **01303 817040**



Laboratory Technician

(18.5 hours per week)

Salary: £17,861 - £22,907 Pro Rata Ref: LW08

We are seeking to appoint a Technician to support the delivery of teaching and training at the new Kent Science Resource Centre, located at the Kent Science Park in Sittingbourne. Ideally, the candidate will have experience working in a laboratory and have a NHC or Degree in a relevant science subject. With good interpersonal skills you will be able to work as part of a team supporting teaching and training activities for Industry, Schools and Colleges. For an informal discussion and further details please contact Julie Coleman on 01795 599588.

The closing date Wednesday 30 July 2008.

Interviews will be held on Wednesday 13 August 2008.

Mid-Kent College is committed to Equal Opportunities and encourages applications from all sections of the community and welcomes applications from under represented groups including black, minority ethnic and disabled people.



CHATHAM & MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL



MID KENT COLLEGE
an associate college of the
UNIVERSITY OF KENT



Action for
Business College



Investors in Diversity
www.mdk.ac.uk



POSITIVE ABOUT
DISABLED PEOPLE



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Operating in the drug & alcohol and mental health sectors, KCA (UK) provides a wide range of high quality and innovative specialist services for adults and young people.

KCA Services in the Community

REF: 497 - DAY PROGRAMME CO-ORDINATOR - MARGATE

SCP 29-35 £23,749 - £28,172 (pay award pending) - 37 hours

You will work in close collaboration with the Service Manager to ensure the efficient and effective running of the Day Programme service within the locality. You will support the Service Manager in providing a structured Day Programme to DRR and voluntary service users, ensuring that the Day Programme fully meets contractual requirements. Responsibilities include the planning and delivery of group activities and line management of staff. You will help to ensure that the Day Programme is fully integrated with other local and organisation-wide services and will work closely with partner agencies within an agreed strategic framework. You should be committed to the principles and practice of equality of opportunity for service users and staff.

You should have comprehensive experience within the drug & alcohol field, coupled with sound organisational skills, including the ability to plan and prioritise your own workload. You should have experience of working within a groupwork setting and be qualified to diploma level or hold a professional qualification within a relevant field.

For an application form contact: KCA (UK) Dan House, 44 East Street, Faversham, Kent ME13 8AT. Tel: 01795 590635, Fax: 01795 539351, email recruitment@kca.org.uk, website www.kca.org.uk.

Closing date: Friday 25th July 2008 at midday
Interview date: Friday 1st August 2008
If you would like to discuss this post further please call Linda Ranger on 01227 781 297

KCA (UK) is committed to the principles of equality of opportunity for all and welcomes applications from people with experience of substance use or who have had previous problems with substance misuse.
 Charity No: 292824

Mid-Kent College of Higher & Further Education is one of the largest providers of Further Education in Kent with ambitious plans to build on its existing reputation.

At a time of unprecedented change the College is looking to recruit professionals to help deliver excellence in the following areas:

Lecturer in Education
Salary: £29,267-£32,898 Ref: KS01

We are seeking to recruit a Lecturer in Education to undertake teaching on the courses for Teaching Assistants and to continue the collaborative provision with Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU). The successful candidate will have a degree in a relevant subject area and have or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification.

Closing date: Friday, 8 August 2008
Interview: Wednesday, 27 August 2008

Programme Area Leader in Plumbing
Salary: £29,267-£32,898 Ref: KS02

The successful candidate will provide support to the Head of School and deliver and develop the management and teaching of Plumbing, Heating and Gas Programmes. The ideal candidate will be able to demonstrate practical experience of the Building Services Industry and be educated to Level 3. The candidate will have or be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification and Advanced Craft Certificate.

College Information Services Manager
Salary: Circa £47,000 Ref: KS03

An opportunity has arisen for a CIS Manager who will be responsible for ensuring the timely and accurate production of information on student's and resources for internal decision-making, monitoring and external reporting. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate excellent knowledge of Excel, Access and data manipulation skills. Applicants will hold a degree or professional qualification in a relevant area i.e. business, management or computing.

Closing date: Friday, 8 August 2008
Interviews: TBC

Mid-Kent College is working in partnership with RBLI Employment Solutions to support individuals who have a disability or health condition in the application, interview and employment with the college. If you would like any further information regarding RBLI or require assistance with your application process then please contact RBLI on 0800 783 1144 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk for information, advice and guidance.

The College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and anyone applying for work with the College is expected to share this commitment. Any offer of employment is subject to an Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Application forms and further details are available from www.midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively, please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. For individuals without access to e-mail or the internet please call the Personnel department on 01634 845402 (24 hour answer machine). In all communication with the College please quote the appropriate job title and reference number.

Mid-Kent College is an equal opportunities employer



Action for
Business College



RBLI



Investors in Diversity
www.mdk.ac.uk



POSITIVE ABOUT
DISABLED PEOPLE



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

tvone
The Video Processing Specialists

Embedded Software Engineer

TV One Ltd is a leading UK manufacturer of Audio & Video conversion products for the Pro AV, Broadcast and Live Events markets.

We are looking for an experienced embedded software designer to enhance our R&D team. Your role will include designing and developing the software to control our CORIO® video processing engine, video encoders & decoders and design of user interfaces for our latest HD video processing products.

Key Skill Set:

- Multi-threading & Multi-tasking software design skills
- Very Strong C programming for embedded systems
- Comfortable with software and hardware debugging
- Experience of 32 Bit Micro processors in embedded product design

To apply contact:

Amanda Mallett, TV One Ltd, Unit V, Continental Approach, Westwood Industrial Estate, Margate, Kent. CT9 4JG
 Tel: 01843 873300 • Fax: 01843 873301
 Email: recruit.europe@tvone.com

www.tvone.eu

Red Eagle
RECRUITMENT SPECIALISTS

WASTE OPERATIVES Required

DISPOSAL OPERATOR

Temp to Perm

Our client requires additional operators for their busy incinerator site in Ashford. The role involves manual handling trade size wheelie bins whilst scanning them, weighing them before loading them on to the lift for disposal into the hopper. The starting pay rate is a minimum £5.75 per hour, night rates and weekend premiums payable with this increasing once permanent.

WASTE LOADERS

Temp / Contract

Our client regularly requires additional staff to load and unload waste wheelie bins from 40 foot trailers. The work is physically demanding and the shifts can be day, night or weekend shifts. Minimum £5.75 per hour, night rates and weekend premiums payable.

Please call Leigh Cripps on **01303 851133** to arrange an interview at our office, 38 Bouvier Square, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 1BA

nacro
changing lives
reducing crime

Nacro is the principal crime reduction charity in England and Wales. It works to reduce crime by delivering a range of socially inclusive crime prevention initiatives by working for a fair and effective criminal justice system and by resettling offenders.

Nacro Operations in Kent offer vocational and skills training to young people aged 14-19 years and adult learners and those who wish to improve their literacy and numeracy. Our aim is to motivate, raise self-esteem and increase self confidence through effective training and skills development to progress our learners into education, training or employment.

As our provision extends we are looking for lively, self motivated individuals who enjoy the challenge of working with people of all ages but, in particular, young people.

We have the following vacancies:

SCHOOLS PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR
£21,984 (inc. Labour Market Uplift)

Our 14-16 year old programmes include Key stage 4 Engagement Programme (50/50) and Alternative Curriculum programmes for individual schools. Our programme objectives are to develop and encourage vocational and employability skills which enable young people to re-engage and make positive life choices.

We are looking to engage a highly motivated, organised individual who has empathy with this client group. The post holder will be required to co-ordinate the activities and take responsibility for the Nacro 14-16 year old Alternative Curriculum programmes across Kent and Medway. This post will suit someone who has a background in education and who is keen to ensure that all young people receive the education appropriate to their needs.

KEY SKILLS TRAINER (Maternity Cover)
£17,658 to £19,658 per Annum (inc. Labour Market Uplift)

We work in partnership to deliver our successful Entry to Employment Programme (e2e). This programme is for young people aged 16-18 and requires an enthusiastic, Lively, Creative individual to join our staff team. You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to encourage young people to take opportunities offered to progress them into further education, training or employment. Experience in employer engagement would be desirable.

This position will be subject to an enhanced CRB check

KEY SKILLS TRAINER (Army Preparation Programme)
£17,658 to £19,658 per Annum (inc. Labour Market Uplift)

We work in partnership to deliver our successful Entry to Employment Programme (e2e). This programme is for young people aged 16-18 and requires an enthusiastic, Lively, Creative individual to join our staff team. You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to encourage young people to take opportunities offered to progress them into further education, training or employment. Experience in employer engagement would be desirable.

This position will be subject to an enhanced CRB check.

TRAINER (Schools Programmes)
£17,658 to £19,658 (inc. Labour Market Uplift)

We hold the contract to deliver the 50/50 element of the Key Stage 4 Engagement Programme and work in partnership with schools and Local Education Authority to re-engage Key Stage 4 Learners.

You will be experienced in using imaginative new techniques to encourage young people to take up vocational and work related opportunities offered to them through the programme and have an interest in teaching a variety of subjects to young people. Experience of working with challenging behaviour would be an advantage.

This position will be subject to an enhanced CRB check.

SWITCH ON PROJECT MANAGER
£24,535 per annum

Nacro has been awarded an ESF contract to deliver a project for 14-16 year olds across Kent and Medway and Sussex. The project (called Switch On) aims to assist young people's transition into employment and training. You should have experience of managing successful ESF projects, the ability to develop provision and a track record of successful engagement with 14-16 year olds and other stakeholders. Working closely with the Area Manager for Kent and Nacro's Regional Performance team, you will also need to work with partner organisations to ensure the project is effective across the whole area. The post will be based in either Kent and Medway or the Brighton area, is dependent on ESF funding and is currently until 2010.

Please note that this position will be subject to a CRB check.


>lsc
Leading learning and skills

TIE PROJECT MANAGER
£24,535 per annum

Nacro has been awarded an ESF contract to deliver a personal development and employability project (called TIE) across Kent and Medway and Surrey to 14-19 years olds. The post will be based in Kent and Medway, but will require the post-holder to travel to Surrey on a regular basis. You should have experience of managing successful ESF projects, the ability to develop provision and a track record of successful engagement with 14-19 year olds and other stakeholders. Working closely with the Area Manager for Kent and Nacro's Regional Performance team, you will also need to work with partner organisations to ensure the project is effective across the whole area. The post is dependent of ESF funding and is currently until 2010.

Please note that this position will be subject to a CRB check.


>lsc
Leading learning and skills

Please contact Hayley Arms on 01634 818305 or hayley.arms@nacro.org.uk for an application pack.

Nacro is an equal opportunities employer and aims to eliminate unfair discrimination in its selection process.
 Nacro is a registered Charity No: 226171



Committed To Conservation

Howletts & Port Lympne Wild Animal Parks is part of a charity based organisation committed to protecting rare and endangered animals from extinction through captive breeding and reintroduction programmes.

We are proud to be the home of one of the world's most prized wild animal collections.

If you want the chance to gain valuable experience in a fast paced catering operation whilst contributing to the success of a respected animal charity read on...

Assistant Catering Manager (Port Lympne)

We are looking for a highly motivated, pro-active individual to assist the Catering Manager in our busy catering operation at Port Lympne Park. You must have a strong desire to succeed in a fast paced commercial environment where the customer always comes first.

The successful applicant will have prior experience to at least a supervisory level in the hospitality industry, hold a basic food hygiene certificate and be profit orientated and customer focused with excellent team leadership and organisational skills. Working 40 hours a week (day shifts) five days out of seven, including weekends.

Chef

(Port Lympne)

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To apply for one of the above vacancies; please send a recent CV and covering letter, stating the position applied for, to: Helen Dallimore-Jones, Human Resources Manager, Port Lympne Wild Animal Park, Port Lympne Nr Hythe, Kent. CT21 4PD. E-mail: personnel@howletts.net

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The image shows a collage of screenshots from the businessforkent.co.uk website. It includes sections for local news, property, and community. One screenshot shows a search result for 'Kings Lynn' with various business cards. Another shows a video player. Other screens show details of specific businesses like 'Kings Lynn Hairdressing' and 'Kings Lynn Hairdressing'. There are also sections for 'Local Businesses' and 'Community'.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

No empty promise as rates issue builds up

A CAMPAIGN against business rates for empty commercial premises being waged by the Thanet and East Kent Chamber has gone to the highest levels.

Chief executive David Foley and president Bill Moses met the area director of South East England Development Agency, Dr Susan Priest, who is responsible for Kent and Medway in Chatham.

They stressed that with the building of new shops, offices, factories and warehouses by the private sector coming to a virtual stop, some companies are even demolishing their empty buildings to avoid paying business rates.

Dr Priest will raise the issue with the Government Office of the South East.

Take a flyer to win voucher for restaurant

DINERS who nominate their favourite restaurants to OrderOnlineNow, a new free web-based takeaway food ordering and reservation service, will receive a voucher to eat at restaurants which join the on-line community.

It is being launched in Kent with a million promotional fliers being distributed. Once established here, the model will be rolled out across the country.

Customers will be able to search and choose restaurants, select food and order takeaways, home deliveries and reserve a table. It's the brainchild of Betherden businessman Andrew Frisby.

Uni joins research team studying 'third sector'

THE University of Kent has joined forces with other institutions to develop research and analysis into groups such as charities, social enterprises and small community organisations.

Collectively known as the 'third sector', the university has forged links with the University of Birmingham's Third Sector Research Centre.

The centre receives funding from the Economic and Social Research Council, Office of the Third Sector and The Barrow Cadbury Trust. It will receive £10.25 million over the next five years.

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Business Editor Tony Patey looks ahead as the credit crunch bites

Investments fuel employment boom

And science park bucks trend in commercial property

■ BY TONY PATEY

MORE than 1,600 new jobs have been created in Ashford in the past year – according to an organisation given the task of managing the growth of the town.

Ashford is thought to be the fastest-growing town between London and continental Europe, with ambitious plans to create 28,000 new jobs and build 31,000 homes by 2031.

About £2.5 billion of public and private sector money is expected to be invested in the town which with Thames Gateway is earmarked as a major growth area.

Training in highly-skilled sectors is growing. For example, Hitachi Rail Maintenance opened its train centre in October, and gives the town's school and college leavers chances to join an apprenticeship scheme.

Judith Armit, managing director of Ashford's Future, said: "This is an exciting time for the town. We can predict many others will soon find Ashford best placed to do business."

Locate in Kent, the county's investment promotion agency, assisted companies to create or retain 1,047 jobs in Ashford between April 2007 and this April.

Chief executive Paul Wooley said: "Half our successes have been in the ICT sector, with other jobs



GREEN ROOF PROPOSALS: A computer-generated image showing the new entrance planned for Kent Science Park, Sittingbourne

being created in construction and property, financial services, engineering and printing. Furthermore, 75 per cent were knowledge-based jobs indicating the town is attracting a high-quality workforce."

Major development plans have been unveiled at Kent Science Park, near Sittingbourne, involving £25m-worth of investment over the next five years and the creation of 500 new jobs – increasing the total there by a half.

Proposals, which could also

prove to be controversial, include a new arrivals centre, for which a planning application has just been lodged with Swale council.

Another proposal is the development of further technology units following the success of the recently completed first phase of new buildings.

The most significant investment is in the extension of the park by four hectares, from 22 hectares.

This is to accommodate tenants

who are expanding, and new companies, within 129,000 sq ft of new commercial property as the park bucks the trend in the commercial property market.

As part of these proposals the park is consulting with residents, in particular those who live on Ruins Barn Road and Broadoak Road, hosting a public meeting, and producing a newsletter and a website which contains details of the proposals.

Go to www.kentsciencepark.co.uk under future plans'.



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Degree of delight for Open rookie

GOLF

■ BY TOM HOWARD

DESPITE finishing in the top 20 in his first Open Championship at Royal Birkdale, amateur Tom Sherread does not want to rush into becoming a professional.

The Chart Hills Golf Club amateur put in a stunning performance in the Open, beating illustrious names in golf such as Vijay Singh, Justin Rose and Ernie Els to finish tied 19th. Sherread finished 14-over-par from the tournament, but on the opening day he held the lead briefly.

Sherread told yourashford: "My aim at the start of the week was to challenge for the silver medal and to make the cut."

"I never thought I would come away with a top-20 finish in the Open."

"It has certainly been a week I will remember.

"As for turning professional, I have not had any shock phone calls offering me a deal. I will be heading back to USA to continue my degree. I do not think I am ready to become professional.

"The Open often throws up a few surprises as there are so many variables to contend with. I think I will bide my time."

Sherread was just two shots from finishing in the top ten, which would have guaranteed him a place at next year's Open Championship. He was also just four shots behind leading amateur Chris Wood.

Sherread finished his final round in the best way possible with an eagle and a birdie.

He feels the week has taught him a lot about himself and his game.

He added: "I have certainly learnt how I deal with pressure shots and where I need to improve my game.

"Some of the chips and short game I have witnessed last week was amazing and I feel I need to improve my game in that area."



NOT SO AMATEUR: Tom Sherread impressed in his first Open finishing ahead of some of golf's big names, but he is returning to his US college

Rider promises to be back for next round

SUPERBIKES

A HEAVY crash in qualifying saw British Superbike rider Leon Camier forced to withdraw from the seventh round of the championship at Oulton Park.

The Ashford rider, who recorded his first victory only last month at Snetterton, has had a difficult year with injuries. He started the season recovering from a broken leg, only to injure himself in a freak testing accident in Spain in February.

After falling at the last round at Mallory Park, Camier's bad luck continued on Saturday as he lost control of his machine during the qualifying session.

The Airwaves Ducati team felt with a high speed accident it would be best as a precaution for Camier to sit out of the race.

He said: "I'm incredibly disappointed to not be out there racing, for myself, the fans and the sponsors. It was a hard call to make and it hasn't been taken lightly. I now need to focus on getting myself back to full fitness and getting the championship back on track. I can assure the fans that I will be back in the thick of it at Knockhill."



NO LUCK: Leon Camier has dropped to fifth in the Superbike Championship

The Airwaves Ducati rider has fallen to fifth in the championship standings after missing out the two races at Oulton Park. Rizla Suzuki's Tom Sykes took victory in both races with Sheppeney's Shane Byrne clinching two third place finishes.

Camier will be back in action in the next round of the championship at Scottish circuit Knockhill on August 10.

Lovell happy with strikers despite no joy on Adams

FOOTBALL

ASHFORD Town have given up the chase for in-demand Hastings United striker Sam Adams after he signed Ryman League forms at the East Sussex club.

Adams, who scored 13 goals last season for Hastings in the Ryman Premier League, had been linked with a move to The Homelands after Town boss Steve Lovell approached the striker.

However, Hastings would not let the striker leave unless Town would pay the fee of £10,000.

According to the Hastings United website, Adams has agreed to stay there for the 2008/09 season, which has come as a disappointment to Lovell.

With negotiations fading, Lovell moved to sign Sittingbourne striker Bradley Spice as a replacement and feels he will not need to add further to his strike force.

Lovell told yourashford: "I am a little disappointed that he (Adams) has decided to stay at Hastings, but at the end of the day I was not going to fork out the money they wanted for him."



REPLACEMENT: Bradley Spice (in white) will complete Steve Lovell's attacking options for the new season

"I am just glad for him that he will be playing his football next season."

"I have brought in Bradley and I think we have got four good forwards at the club now."

"I am happy with my strike force so I will not be looking to add to it."

Town were in action in their first pre-season friendly of the season against Hythe Town last night. For the result log on to www.yourashford.co.uk.



IN FORM: Kent celebrate reaching Twenty20 finals

Tickets sell-out as Spitfire fans head to the Rose Bowl

CRICKET

THE KENT Spitfires travel to the Rose Bowl this weekend looking to make it back-to-back Twenty20 trophy wins.

Rob Key's side face the Essex Eagles in the first semi-final of the day but the winners will not only boast of a place in the afternoon's final, they will also be the first county to represent England in this summer's inaugural Champions League.

Spitfire fans have been flocking to the St Lawrence Ground this week to get their tickets for Saturday's Twenty20 finals day at Hampshire's Rose Bowl.

The demand for tickets has been so high that the club has had to get more from the Rose Bowl which will make Kent the best supported club in the final.

The club sold their allocation last week and have gone back for a further 300 tickets because the demand in the county has been so high.

Kent's commercial and operations director, Jon Fordham said the club were a little taken aback at the demand to see Key's side in the final.

He said: "It has been a novel experience which took us by surprise really because of the level of interest from supporters.

"Last year for Twenty20 finals day we had to return about 500 tickets of the 1,600 we were given.

"But we sold out our allocation by Thursday morning and we managed to get a further 300 from the Rose Bowl.

"By the looks of it we will have sold 1,800 tickets which will make Kent the best supported club out of the four finalists."

While the Twenty20 tickets have been selling like the proverbial hot cakes, so too have places for the Friends Provident Trophy final against the Essex Eagles at Lord's on August 16.

The club have already sold their 4,500 allocation and Fordham has been selling a further 1,000 he received this week.

Essex are yet to put their tickets on sale and it is expected they will be unable to sell their allocation and may have to return some. Fordham has not ruled out asking for some more for Kent, if the demand is still high.

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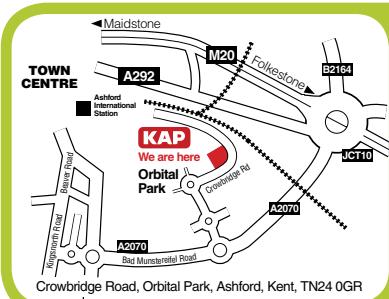
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